

## Britannia starts new rescue mission

LONDON (R) — Queen Elizabeth's royal yacht Britannia arrived off Aden on Sunday and began a second rescue operation of foreigners caught up in South Yemen's bloody civil war, Britain's Defence Ministry said. A spokesman said the yacht was seeking to collect an undisclosed number of refugees from a beach east of Aden. Britannia evacuated some 350 foreign nationals to Djibouti in the Horn of Africa on Saturday in an operation broken off because of renewed fighting. "We understand things are getting a bit quieter in the area. It is a question of looking for a window of opportunity when the fighting dies down and when it is regarded as safe (to evacuate more people)," the spokesman said. The captain of the ship, Rear-Admiral John Garnier, told British Radio he hoped to rescue a further 1,000 people by taking evacuees from the beaches of Aden to other ships.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الراي

## Kidnap suspect seized in New York

NEW YORK (R) — An Arab living in New York was seized Saturday night and charged in the London kidnapping of a Middle Eastern millionaire who escaped from his captors on Friday after his family paid a \$3 million ransom. A spokesman for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) said that Mustafa Zien, 43, offered no resistance when agents arrested him at his midtown Manhattan apartment. The FBI was acting at the request of British authorities. According to the FBI spokesman, Mr. Zien made a series of telephone calls to London demanding the ransom for the release of Mohammad Sadiq Al Tajir, the brother of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) ambassador to London. Sadiq, who was kidnapped Jan. 6, fled his captors after spending 11 days chained to a bed. British authorities said he had been drugged and forced to wear a mask.

Volume 11 Number 3974

AMMAN, MONDAY JANUARY 20, 1986, JUMADA AWWAL 9, 1406

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

## Urquhart due in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — U.N. Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs Brian Urquhart is due here on Wednesday on a visit to Jordan during which he will meet with a number of senior Jordanian officials to discuss the latest developments in the Middle East.

## Mubarak meets Crowe

CAIRO (AP) — Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral William Crowe, who is on a familiarization tour of the Middle East, met Sunday with President Hosni Mubarak. Following the one-hour meeting, Adm. Crowe described U.S.-Egyptian military relations as "significant," but declined to comment on Egypt's problems in paying off its military debts to the United States, which U.S. officials say amounts to \$4.55 billion.

## Shevardnadze in Pyongyang

TOKYO (AP) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze arrived in North Korea on Sunday for an official and friendly visit, the official Pyongyang Radio reported. Mr. Shevardnadze, the first Soviet foreign minister ever to visit North Korea, flew to Pyongyang after a five-day visit to Japan (see page 3), where he was the first Soviet foreign minister to visit in 10 years. Pyongyang Radio, monitored in Tokyo, said Mr. Shevardnadze was greeted at the airport by North Korean Vice President Pak Sung Chul, Foreign Minister Kim Yong Nam and Vice Premier Kim Bok Sim.

## Kissinger willing to arbitrate Taba dispute

TEL AVIV (AP) — Former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger said he may be willing to arbitrate a border dispute between Israel and Egypt. Kissinger said if Israel and Egypt both asked, he would agree to be an arbitrator in the border dispute at Taba, a one-square-kilometre beach on the Red Sea, the Jerusalem Post reported Sunday.

## Kaddoumi arrives in Czechoslovakia

VIENNA (R) — Farouk Kaddoumi, a close aide of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, arrived in Prague late Saturday from Bucharest on a trip through Eastern Europe, the official Ceteke news agency reported. Ceteke said Mr. Kaddoumi would have talks with state and Communist Party officials but gave no details.

## El Al cancels Manchester flight

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's airline, El Al, cancelled its weekly flight to Manchester, England, on Sunday, arguing that the airport's plan to isolate the El Al's check-in counter was a concession to "terrorism." The Manchester airport security decided for security reasons to move the check-in counter to an isolated area.

# Ismail seems to have assumed power in Aden

## Radio says Mohammad's bid for 'dictatorship' foiled

BAHRAIN (R) — Ex-President Abdul Fattah Ismail appeared on Sunday to have ousted his former ally, President Ali Nasser Mohammad, after a bloody one-week battle for control of South Yemen.

Aden Radio quoted a statement from the ruling Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) as saying a bid by the president to impose a dictatorship on South Yemen had been foiled. In North Yemen, Sana'a Radio quoted an official statement as saying a peace committee meeting at the Soviet embassy had agreed a ceasefire to go into effect within hours.

The agreement provided for an immediate cessation of the week-long conflict, which erupted last Monday when radical Marxists tried to overthrow the government of President Mohammad.

International communications with South Yemen have been interrupted by the fighting, and there was no way to verify the report. Aden Radio quoted messages of support from the armed forces for Mr. Ismail, 47, who returned to Aden only last year from self-imposed exile in Moscow.

The fighting involved tanks, gunboats and warplanes and forced

an evacuation of some 3,000 foreign nationals by Soviet cargo ships and the British royal yacht Britannia to Djibouti over the past two days. Abu Dhabi's Al Itihad newspaper said on Sunday some 7,000 to 9,000 people had been killed or wounded.

The politburo had foiled the plot, the radio said, adding "hired elements in power under Ali Nasser Mohammad have been eliminated." It said the military was "in control of the situation, relying on the party's collective leadership," and broadcast an appeal for a return to work to restore normality.

In Tunis, the Palestinian News Agency, Wafa, said a Palestinian peace force despatched from Sana'a had arrived in Aden and would act as a buffer force between the two sides.

The fighting erupted last Monday when Aden Radio said the government had foiled a coup attempt and bid to assassinate the president. Four ringleaders including Mr. Ismail were executed immediately, it said.

But diplomatic sources quoted by Reuters said the air force and navy lined up with the rebels, under the command of Defence Minister Saleh Moseleh Qassem, while the army divided between the two factions.

Diplomats said the power struggle appeared to have been in opposition to Mr. Mohammad's drive to improve ties with neighbouring Arab states and attract development aid for impoverished South Yemen, heavily dependent on Soviet aid since independence from Britain in 1967.

Mr. Ismail, described by Western diplomats as a hardline Marxist (see page 2), fought alongside Mr. Mohammad against British rule in the 1960s and helped him oust President Rubayi Ali in a bloody coup in June 1978.

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## King meets Murphy in London

By Saleem B. Ne'matt  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein held talks with U.S. special Middle East envoy Richard Murphy in London on the current developments in the Middle East situation, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, reported Sunday.

The agency did not say when the meeting took place but Mr. Murphy arrived in London on Saturday and left for The Netherlands on Sunday.

King Hussein also met with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on Friday with whom he discussed Jordan's efforts to move the peace process and a possible British role in enhancing these efforts.

British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe was quoted last week as saying that Britain intends to ask Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres, who is due in London in the next few days, to be "more forthcoming" towards the Middle East peace process. The Daily Telegraph also said that Britain agreed to pursue "a two-pronged" policy in the Middle East. Britain would support King Hussein in his efforts to draw the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) into peace negotiations and also support Jordan's efforts to cooperate with Syria.

A senior Jordanian official has told the Jordan Times that Jordan had asked the PLO "to give the

organisation's position on United Nations Resolutions 242 and 338."

The senior official, who asked not to be named, said last week that Jordan was "still waiting for the PLO's answer."

The PLO Executive Committee and the Fatah Central Council met in Baghdad last week where they discussed Jordan's request as well as the future of the Feb. 11 Jordan-PLO agreement. PLO officials in Amman told the Jordan Times.

It was not immediately known whether the PLO's highest policy-making bodies have decided on any of the discussed issues. "We will find out as soon as (PLO

(Continued on page 3)



REGENT BRIEFED ON UDD: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Sunday visits the Urban Development Department (UDD) where he was briefed on UDD programmes and activities (see page 3)

## Jordan expects stern Islamic action against Israeli moves

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan will urge the Jerusalem Committee which is due to convene in Marakech on Tuesday to take stern measures against Israeli violations of holy places in the occupied Arab territories, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri said Sunday.

Speaking before leaving for the Marakech meeting, accompanied by Minister of Aqsa and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat, Mr. Masri said Jordan does not seek a mere condemnation of Israeli actions against Islamic shrines but wants to take measures, in concert with Arab and Islamic nations, to stop Israel from pursuing such actions prior to a meeting by the United Nations Security Council which is due in the coming week to discuss the Israeli measures.

Jordan has been in contact with international organisations and friendly nations over the Israeli violations and has complained to the United Nations Security Council over Israel's attempts to storm Al Haram Al Sharif, Mr. Masri said. The Israeli attempts, he said, constitute a grave development, and points to Zionist evil intentions against Islamic holy places.

Mr. Masri did not say what action can be taken by the committee, which meets under the chairmanship of King Hassan II of Morocco. The Jerusalem Committee is made up by members of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

Mr. Khayyat said that Israel's continued violations of the sanctity of the holy places in Jerusalem constitute a provocation of the Muslim people's religious feelings.

He said such violations are part of a plan designed to demolish Al Aqsa Mosque, the third most holy shrine for Muslims, with the intention of building a Jewish synagogue there.

Israel's repeated attempts to storm Al Aqsa Mosque since the 1967 occupation of the West Bank and public statements by Israeli officials and members of the Knesset indicate Israel's ambitious designs in the Islamic places and echo statements made by Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres, Mr. Khayyat said. Peres has said that all of Palestine is Israeli land, including the holy places in Jerusalem and Hebron, Mr. Khayyat recalled.

Mr. Khayyat said Jordan's delegation to the meeting in Marakech will submit a note on placing

guards for Al Aqsa Mosque, carrying out restoration work at Al Aqsa and the Al Ibrahim Mosques in Hebron, extending moral and financial assistance to the Arab population under Israeli rule and enhancing the Arab population's steadfastness in the face of Zionist aggression.

Arab and Islamic countries have protested against a visit earlier this month by a group of Israeli parliamentarians to Haram Al Sharif.

Police had to intervene and evacuate the deputies following angry protests by Muslims.

In the latest incident, police arrested 12 Israeli youths trying to force their way into Al Aqsa Mosque on Sunday.

One of the extremists carried an Israeli flag which the group apparently intended to fly inside the walled compound.

A woman carrying the flag and a man who allegedly struck a policeman were detained for questioning and later released.

Police said the group was from the Kach movement, led by American Rabbi Meir Kahane, which advocates the seizure of the holy site for Jews and the expulsion of Arabs from Israel and the occupied West Bank.

## Independent group urges early end to nuclear race

NEW DELHI (R) — An independent disarmament study group on Sunday called for the superpowers to halt the nuclear arms race and said there were no technical obstacles to a comprehensive nuclear test ban.

The Independent Commission on Disarmament and Security Issues chaired by Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme also welcomed new disarmament proposals advanced last week by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

"They are imaginative and ought to bring the disarmament process forward," Mr. Palme said at a news conference here of the three-stage proposal that Mr. Gorbachev said could eliminate nuclear weapons by the end of the century.

Mr. Palme and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi previously had welcomed the Gorbachev proposals in a news conference the day after the Soviet leader announced them on Jan. 15.

The 16-member commission, some members of which are current or former cabinet ministers, was set up in 1980 to study practical means to further disarmament and security.

In its final report, the commission said the nuclear powers should swiftly conclude an agreement on a mutual and verifiable test ban to facilitate disarmament negotiations.

"This could be achieved at an early stage without complex negotiations," Mr. Palme said, while the commission statement said "no technical obstacles now stand in the way of verifying such an agreement."

The commission also called for the strengthening of the United Nations and its peacekeeping functions, and urged smaller states to undertake cooperative regional arrangements to safeguard their security.

## Grenade, firecracker explode at Aquino rally

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (R) — Two explosions were heard during a campaign rally by opposition candidate Corason Aquino on Sunday and 50,000 people packed into the city square fled in panic.

The explosions were heard within 45 minutes of each other. Police said the first was caused by a grenade and a firecracker caused the second one. Mrs. Aquino was not hurt but police said they did not know whether there were any other casualties or who was responsible.

The grenade went off about 100 metres from where Mrs. Aquino was speaking, the firecracker 200 metres away.

Church warns Marcos against cheating, page 8

## Lebanese rightists seek unity amid mounting leftist pressure

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanese Christian leaders tried to hammer out a united stand on Sunday after rival militia chiefs demanded the removal of President Amin Gemayel.

The mostly Christian Falange Party's Al Amal newspaper said Christian politicians discussed setting up a broad-based conference to unite the community.

Bloody street battles among rival rightist militias last week ousted "Lebanese Forces" militia commander Elie Hobeika, forcing him to flee the country and leaving a Syrian-backed militia peace agreement to Lebanon's civil war in ruins.

Enraged at Mr. Hobeika's downfall, leftist leaders have demanded Mr. Gemayel's ouster, saying there could be no peace while the 43-year-old Christian president remained in office.

"There is no possibility of any solution with the existence of Mr. Gemayel," Shi'ite leader Nabih Berri said. A settlement required "shortening Gemayel's term," he said.

Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt said: "Whoever deals with (Gemayel's) regime and accepts compromises is a traitor."

Mr. Berri, Mr. Junblatt and Mr. Hobeika signed a militia agreement in Damascus on Dec. 28, but plans to give Muslims more say in government and cut the powers of the presidency were dashed in east Beirut fighting last Wednesday.

At least 200 people died in the rightist feuding, while Mr. Hobeika was forced to surrender to fighters loyal to Mr. Gemayel and the hardline chief of staff of the "Lebanese Forces," Samir Geagea.

Beirut newspapers said more than 50 of Mr. Hobeika's supporters have followed him into exile and more were expected to go.

Christian leaders, meanwhile, assured Syria that they were not turning their backs on the militia agreement.

Mr. Gemayel has withheld his support for the pact, but Al Amal said senior "Lebanese Forces" official Karim Pakradouni phoned Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam Saturday night.

Mr. Pakradouni told Mr. Khaddam the east Beirut power struggle was an internal Christian affair and not aimed at disrupting Syria's role in Lebanon, the newspaper said.

Police said Sunday, Gemayel loyalists and Syrian-backed fighters battled overnight with tanks, artillery and mortars near three villages northeast of Beirut, killing nine people.

Three other people were killed in heavy clashes between the army and militiamen of the PSP in the hills east of the capital, police said.

The overnight clashes brought the casualty toll to 414 killed and more than 800 wounded since Monday. Most of the casualties came from street battles on Wednesday.

In Damascus, Lebanese leaders conferred on Sunday with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

Sources in Damascus told the AP Mr. Assad held talks with a delegation headed by Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami.

There were no details of the talks. But the sources said Mr. Karami's meeting with Mr. Karami, Speaker of Parliament Hussein Hussein, and Education and Labour Minister Salim Al Hoss, focused on the crisis.

The three leaders were summoned as the Beirut violence raised fears that the collapse of the Syrian-sponsored peace plan could spark a new round of civil war fighting.

## Peres, Gonzalez for normalise relations

THE HAGUE (Agencies) — The prime ministers of Israel and Spain met here on Sunday amid tight security to set the seal on their new diplomatic ties, the Dutch Foreign Ministry said.

Israel's Shimon Peres, starting a 10-day European tour, met Spain's Felipe Gonzalez at a closely-guarded ceremony in the official Hague residence of Dutch Premier Ruud Lubbers.

Unprecedented security measures were in force Sunday morning when Peres and Mr. Gonzalez arrived within half an hour of each other near here at the small naval air base of Valkenburg.

Dutch security forces have been on maximum alert for more than a week since a warning, attributed to western intelligence sources, that guerrillas planned to attack U.S. or Israeli targets in The Netherlands.

The U.S. embassy refused to comment on Dutch and Israeli media reports that Peres would also meet U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy during his European tour.

Mr. Murphy arrived in The Netherlands on Sunday, and was scheduled to meet with Peres at 10:30 p.m. local time (2130 GMT). Mr. Murphy discussed Middle Eastern affairs during lunch with Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek, according to ministry spokesman Jan Jonker Rbeants, who disclosed nothing further on their talks.

Spain established full diplomatic relations with Israel two days ago, having decided on the move after joining the European community (EC) on Jan. 1.

The Netherlands was hosting the meeting between Peres and Mr. Gonzalez in its capacity as current EC president, a Dutch Foreign Ministry spokesman said. All other EC countries except Greece have diplomatic relations with Israel.

Peres will stay in The Netherlands for two days for talks with Dutch leaders, before going to Britain and West Germany.

Aboard his airplane on the way to The Hague, Peres expressed flexibility on the makeup of an international Mideast peace forum, saying it could be formed either by the Soviet Union and the United States, or the five members of the U.N. Security Council.

The United States has in the past resisted a Soviet role in the

relevant to the Taba problem and ways of settling it.

The plan includes calls for Egypt to return its ambassador to Israel, withdrawn in 1982, and for a boost in trade, tourism and cultural exchanges which have languished despite their 1979 treaty.

President Hosni Mubarak has rejected one Israeli demand — for a report on the death of seven Israeli tourists in Sinai last October. A military court last month jailed a policeman, Sulaiman Khater, for life for the killings. He was found hanged 10 days later and the coroners said he killed himself.

Mr. Abdul Meguid repeated Egypt's view that resolving the dispute over Taba, which Israel kept in 1982 when it returned the rest of Sinai to Egypt, was a key to better relations.

He also said a Taba settlement would remove a major hurdle to progress in the Middle East peace process.

Mr. Abdul Meguid added: "Egypt totally rejects Israeli practices in Jerusalem, especially towards Al Aqsa Mosque... these contain grave dangers which will negatively affect peace efforts."

## Lesotho appeals to West

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Lesotho Prime Minister Chief Leabua Jonathan on Sunday appealed to the West for an emergency airlift because of a blockade of his tiny kingdom by South Africa and said otherwise he would turn to the East.

Reporters who attended a news conference near the Lesotho capital of Maseru quoted Chief Jonathan as saying that Lesotho, which is encircled by South Africa, was facing a full economic siege by Pretoria.

South Africa has denied blocking Lesotho but says it has stepped up border checks to catch guerrillas of the banned African National Congress (ANC).

Chief Jonathan, speaking at his mountain retreat, said he was surprised that Britain and the United States had not responded to an appeal last week.

Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca is visiting Lesotho, but Chief Jonathan said he would only turn to countries such as Cuba if he did not get help from the West.

## Ties depend on Palestinian issue, Egypt tells Israel

CAIRO (R) — Egypt, responding to a new Israeli blueprint for better relations, said on Sunday progress hinged on "movement on the Palestinian issue."

Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid told a parliamentary committee Egypt rejected Israeli behaviour in Jerusalem, which he said created obstacles to Middle East peace.

He said Egypt had proposed a meeting here next week with Israeli officials to discuss the 14-point resolution agreed by Israel's 10-man inner cabinet last Monday.

Egypt sent a message to Israel on Friday in response to the plan, and Mr. Abdul Meguid said Egypt appreciated Israel had accepted Cairo's demand for international arbitration of their dispute over the Sinai coastal enclave of Taba.

But he said Cairo had told the Israelis that "a suitable atmosphere for progress and improvement in bilateral relations requires the achievement of movement on the Palestinian issue in the framework of an international conference."

He also said Egypt found some points in Israel's plan "not directly

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# Evren, Mubarak begin talks in Cairo

CAIRO (Agencies) — Turkish President Kenan Evren and President Hosni Mubarak held their first round of talks on Sunday and discussed international and bilateral issues, Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid said.

Following the 90-minute meeting, which started with a brief tete-a-tete between the two presidents who were then joined by their delegations, Mr. Abdul Meguid told reporters:

"The talks centred around international and political issues that interest both countries and we share agreement on viewpoints on several issues."

"The talks also included bilateral and economic issues," he added.

The Middle East News Agency (MENA) said on Saturday that the volume of trade increased from \$19 million in 1979 to \$150 million in 1985.

Mr. Evren arrived Saturday for a four-day state visit, returning a visit to Turkey last year by Mr. Mubarak. Mr. Evren flew in from Tunisia, his first stop of a three-nation tour which will also take him to Qatar.

Mr. Mubarak was hosting a lunch for Mr. Evren later on Sunday.

by Ankara and reports that some Turkish Bulgarians died resisting Sofia's campaign.

In the Swiss capital Bern on Saturday, about 150 Turks demonstrated over alleged human rights abuses against the Turkish minority in Bulgaria, police there said.

Protesters distributed leaflets to local citizens accusing Bulgarian authorities of closing mosques and schools and forcing Turks to change their names to local ones. Those who refused were deported or even killed, they charged.

In his speech in Cairo, Mr. Evren referred to the Middle East, saying a settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict was "impossible without the immediate restoration of Palestinian legitimate rights and Israel's withdrawal from Arab lands, including Jerusalem, occupied in 1967."

"Furthermore, we believe that all countries (in the region) should live within safe and recognised boundaries if we are to have a permanent peace," he added.

Mr. Mubarak spoke of grave recent events in the Mediterranean which he said "obviously indicated aggressive designs to deprive its peoples of their security."

## Dutch tugboat hit in Gulf

BAHRAIN (R) — A Dutch oilfield maintenance ship was hit by a rocket in the Gulf on Sunday 80 miles south of Iran's main oil terminal at Kharg Island, shipping sources said.

They said the 495-ton Smit Maas-shals sent out a distress signal at 10:35 a.m. (0735 GMT), giving its latitude as 28 degrees 7.5 minutes north and longitude 51 minutes five minutes east.

The position puts the ship, which was headed for Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates, about 80 miles south of Kharg and 55 miles from the Iranian port of Bushahr.

Tugs in the area were heading to aid the vessel, but the sources, quoted by Reuters, had no word on casualties or damage.

The ship normally has a crew of 10, but an unspecified number of extra crewmen, such as divers, were on board because of its involvement in oilfield maintenance. They were of several nationalities, including Dutch.

The ship is the third confirmed victim this year in the Gulf "tanker war," an extension of the five-year-old ground conflict between Iran and Iraq.

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In Baghdad, an Iraqi military spokesman said Iraqi warplanes had attacked a large naval target, its usual term for an oil tanker or merchant ship, in the Gulf at 10:30 a.m. (0730 GMT) Sunday.

The director of the Dutch shipping company Smit International which operates Smit Maas-shals said in Amsterdam that the rocket attack set the engine room of the vessel ablaze and led to the injury of six crew members.

The director, William Scholten, said one of the injured men was reported to be in serious condition.

Aboard the vessel, which supports Smit salvage operations in the Gulf, was a crew of approximately 30 men, he said, adding that it was heading from the United Arab Emirates port of Sharjah to Bushahr when it was attacked.

A Bahrain-based marine salvage executive said several salvage tugboats had rushed to the rescue of the tugboat, but that Iranian ships may have already attacked the vessel since it was closer to the Iranian coast when struck.

The last confirmed strike against a ship in the Gulf was on Jan. 5, when the Maltese tanker Kencar, carrying diesel fuel from Kharg, was hit by an Iraqi missile.

The missile failed to explode and there were no injuries on board.

Reports have said that few tankers are approaching the Kharg terminal because of the Iraqi strikes and Iran has chartered tankers to transfer oil from Kharg to a make-shift oil-loading facility at Sirri Island, which lies beyond the range of Iraqi missiles and warplanes.

## Abdul Fatah Ismail — a hardline Marxist

BAHRAIN (R) — Ex-President Abdul Fatah Ismail, 47, who appeared to have won control of South Yemen on Sunday after a week-long battle to oust President Ali Nasser Mohammad, is described by Western diplomats as a hardline Marxist ideologue.

A former technical worker with British Petroleum, he joined the National Liberation Front (NLF) of rebels against British rule in Aden and the protectorate of Southern Arabia in 1959.

Within five years he was head of its military and political activities in Aden, and with Mr. Mohammad became a leading light of the front's Marxist wing.

After independence and unification of the two states as the People's Democratic Republic of Southern Yemen in 1967, Mr. Ismail was given the post of culture and national guidance minister.

But by 1969 his growing power was reflected in election as secretary-general of the front and to membership of the presidential council under President Rubayi Ali.

Firmly pro-Soviet, Mr. Ismail became increasingly estranged from Rubayi Ali, who had begun to lean more towards Peking since a visit to China in 1970.

Mr. Mohammad became prime minister in 1971, joining Mr. Ismail on the presidential council and constituting between them leadership of the Moscow faction in the government.

In June 1978 they used North Yemeni accusations that Aden was behind the assassination of President Hussein Ali Ghashmi in Sana'a to oust and execute Rubayi Ali.

Mr. Mohammad initially became interim head of state, but ceded the presidency to Mr. Ismail in December at the first meeting of the new Yemeni Socialist Party. Mr. Mohammad resumed the premiership.

In April 1980 Mr. Ismail stepped down as president, ostensibly on grounds of ill-health, and went into self-imposed exile in Moscow, leaving Mr. Mohammad to take his place.

He returned to Aden in 1985 and within months was elected to an expanded politburo, in what Western diplomats saw as a bid to appease critics of Mr. Mohammad's drive to improve ties

with neighbouring Arab states.

Mr. Ismail appeared the defacto head of a faction determined to remain firmly pro-Moscow. Tension between the two groups grew and diplomats said armed confrontation last summer was only averted by Soviet and Palestinian mediation.

The latest power struggle erupted on Jan. 13, when Aden Radio reported a failed coup attempt and bid to kill Mr. Mohammad.

The messages hailed his success in foiling attempts "to link the country with the wheels of neo-colonialism and reactionary influence" — an apparent reference to Mr. Mohammad's drive for better ties with the outside world.

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from Rubayi Ali, who had begun to lean more towards Peking since a visit to China in 1970.

Mr. Mohammad became prime minister in 1971, joining Mr. Ismail on the presidential council and constituting between them leadership of the Moscow faction in the government.

In June 1978 they used North Yemeni accusations that Aden was behind the assassination of President Hussein Ali Ghashmi in Sana'a to oust and execute Rubayi Ali.

Mr. Mohammad initially became interim head of state, but ceded the presidency to Mr. Ismail in December at the first meeting of the new Yemeni Socialist Party. Mr. Mohammad resumed the premiership.

In April 1980 Mr. Ismail stepped down as president, ostensibly on grounds of ill-health, and went into self-imposed exile in Moscow, leaving Mr. Mohammad to take his place.

He returned to Aden in 1985 and within months was elected to an expanded politburo, in what Western diplomats saw as a bid to appease critics of Mr. Mohammad's drive to improve ties

with neighbouring Arab states.

Mr. Ismail appeared the defacto head of a faction determined to remain firmly pro-Moscow. Tension between the two groups grew and diplomats said armed confrontation last summer was only averted by Soviet and Palestinian mediation.

The latest power struggle erupted on Jan. 13, when Aden Radio reported a failed coup attempt and bid to kill Mr. Mohammad.

The messages hailed his success in foiling attempts "to link the country with the wheels of neo-colonialism and reactionary influence" — an apparent reference to Mr. Mohammad's drive for better ties with the outside world.

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Four ringleaders, including Mr. Ismail and former Defence Minister Ali Ahmad Nasser Antar, were executed the same day, it said.

The radio came back on the air on Sunday, after only sporadic broadcasts since the fighting started, saying the politburo had foiled attempts by Mr. Mohammad and his supporters to impose a dictatorship on South Yemen.

It also carried messages of support for Mr. Ismail from armed forces units which lined up against Mr. Mohammad in the battle for power.

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## Thaw seen in U.S.-Greek ties after years of chilly encounters

By Henry Gottlieb  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — After years of chilly encounters, including Greek threats to abandon the Western alliance, ties between the United States and Greece are becoming warmer amid predictions the "difficult hours" may be over.

The latest sign of a thaw between the U.S. administration and the Socialist government of Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu occurred just last week. The State Department agreed that Greece was staunch enough an ally and secrets-keeper to buy 40 American F-16 warplanes crammed with sophisticated electronics equipment.

That agreement — added to a considerable reduction recently in the number of anti-U.S. statements by Mr. Papandreu — led one administration official to say, "we're not shouting at each other now, we're talking and listening."

At the same time, "with Papandreu you're never quite sure what he's going to do; he's still unreliable on some issues," said the official, speaking on condition he not be identified.

Still, things have come a long way since Mr. Papandreu's government came to power in October 1981 with a promise to improve Greek relations with the Soviet Union, pull out of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and throw U.S. forces out of bases in Greece. Such talk helped carry him to victory in an election against a conservative.

pro-U.S. government that many Greeks viewed as repressive. Relations hit another low point this past June, when the State Department said Athens airport was unsafe and advised Americans to avoid it, following the hijacking of a TWA Athens-to-Rome flight. Greece was said to have lost millions of American tourist dollars as a result of the warning.

From the U.S. side, the biggest change has been in the tone of Mr. Papandreu's statements about the United States.

Mr. Papandreu has used the phrase "calmer waters" to describe relations. There has been a diminution of threats by Greece to let a U.S. military base agreement expire when its five-year term ends in 1988.

The main facilities are an air force base at Hellenikon, near Athens and the Souda Bay naval station on the Mediterranean island of Crete.

To making planning less uncertain, the United States would prefer a firm commitment to continue the agreement, but for now is apparently satisfied that at least Mr. Papandreu is no longer actively railing against the bases.

Though he quickly declined to

join U.S. sanctions against Libya this month, Mr. Papandreu's criticism of the Libyan policy was relatively muted.

U.S. officials, including Michael Armacost, the assistant secretary of state for political affairs, whose trip to Greece in November was hailed as a success by both sides, point to Greek readiness to improve security at Athens airport as a sign of better relations.

The travel advisory was lifted in mid-summer after U.S. security officials and experts from the International Air Transport Association (IATA) inspected the airport. And when an Egyptian flight from Athens to Cairo was hijacked in October, the State Department defended the airport's security system.

American officials believe the betterment in relations stems from Mr. Papandreu's need for friends abroad at a time when his economy is limping badly. With low growth, and inflation hovering near 20 per cent a year, "he wants to attract U.S. tourism and investment and you can't do that if you're always saying bad things about the United States," an official said.

In return for the base rights, the United States gives Greece \$500 million in credits to buy military equipment.

"He's pragmatic; he can't afford to do the things he might like to do," the official said.

Despite the reduced tensions, there are many more things the United States would like from Mr. Papandreu.

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## Jordan seeks IFAD loan for Zarqa River Basin project

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Planning Abdullah Nsour said Sunday that Jordan hopes to obtain a fresh loan from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to help finance a project for developing the Zarqa River Basin. He said that IFAD earlier granted Jordan two loans worth \$10.6 million which was lent to the Jordan Cooperative Organisation, and another for \$6 million which was lent to the Agricultural Credit Corporation to finance small farm projects in rain-fed regions.

The minister was speaking before his departure to Rome where he will take part in IFAD's 17th session, due to open on Tuesday.

In its four-day meeting, governors of IFAD's various departments will discuss a report on the fund's activities over the past year, a budget for 1986 and financial issues.

The Rome-based IFAD was established by the United Nations in 1976 to finance agricultural development projects, primarily for food production, in developing countries. All powers in IFAD are vested in its governing council which elects the president by a two-thirds majority. According to Dr. Nsour, the meeting in Rome will elect an executive board which consists of 18 members and 18 alternates.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### PSD director leaves for France today

AMMAN (Petra) — Public Security Department (PSD) Director Lieutenant General Abdul Hadi Al Majali will leave for France today at the head of a Public Security delegation on an official visit to France at the invitation of the French government to discuss fields of police cooperation between Jordan and France. During the visit, Lt. Gen. Majali and the accompanying delegation will acquaint themselves with the activities of French police in training, traffic and investigation fields and will also meet a number of French police officials.

### Health education seminar continues

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-day seminar on health education, which opened Saturday, resumed its sessions Sunday and discussed community participation in specifying health problems and formulating suitable solutions to these problems. Speaking in Sunday's session was Jordan Radio and Television Corporation Director General Nasouh Al Majali who delivered a lecture on the media and their role in directing the public towards sound health practices.

### Obeidi discusses CAEU activities, plans

AMMAN (Petra) — Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) Secretary General Mahdi Al Obeidi conferred at his office Sunday with Lebanese Ambassador to Jordan Peter Ziyadeh for discussions on CAEU's working plan for 1986 and current projects. Mr. Obeidi later met with Mr. Abdullah Dumur, secretary general of the Arab Transport Federation, and they discussed a number of issues pertaining to land transport and steps to be taken for establishing an Arab international land transport company. Mr. Obeidi said that a meeting of Arab land transport unions will be held soon to discuss this project.

### Yarmouk organises pharmaceutical talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Yarmouk University President Adnan Badran will open a symposium on pharmaceutical industries at the university's liaison office in Amman on Tuesday. The symposium, organised by the university's Pharmacy Faculty, is expected to be attended by representatives of Arab and foreign pharmaceutical industries. The two-day symposium will discuss a number of working papers dealing with the manufacture and packing of medicinal products.

### Court sentences two bribers

AMMAN (Petra) — The military court has sentenced Ahmad Ali Ibrahim Al Qatani and Shari Ali Za'al Hmoud to three months imprisonment and fined each of them JD 10 for offering a bribe to a government employee. The court also confiscated the amount of the bribe offered in this case. The general military governor endorsed the sentence.

### Contractors meet in Casablanca

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Contractors Association (JCA) is taking part in the annual meetings of the higher council of Arab contractors federation which began Sunday in Casablanca, Morocco. During the two-day meeting, the Arab contractors will discuss the federation's annual report and future plans as well as its budget for the current and next year.

### CDD holds training course

AMMAN (Petra) — The Civil Defence Department (CDD) Sunday opened a week-long training course for employees at the Ministry of Public Works. Altogether, 35 employees will be lectured and will have practical training in putting out fires, rescue operations, first aid and other related activities. The training course was opened by Under Secretary of the Ministry of Public Works Khalaf Al Hawari and a CDD representative made a speech outlining the objectives of the course.

## Newspaper staff step in after apathy from two authorities

By a Staff Writer

AMMAN — It took the persistence of a West German engineer and the initiative of a Jordan Times reporter Sunday to rescue a cat which had been trapped on the roof of a building in Marka for the last five days.

The cat was trapped on the roof of the Al Noor School for the blind in Marka when the school closed for a short vacation five days ago. The cat had been howling and disturbing neighbours ever since which prompted Kurt Kichelberger of the Mercedes service station in the area to try and resolve the situation.

The West German engineers contacted police on Thursday only to be told to contact the Civil Defence Department. In its turn, the Civil Defence authorities referred him back to the police and Mr. Kichelberger made a post-poller run between the police and the civil defence before he realised the futility of his efforts. He then decided to call the Jordan Times to assist in his humanitarian appeal. Some of the newspaper staff also tried to enlist police or Civil Defence help in rescuing the cat, but as

those who answered repeated phone calls feigned ignorance or advised them to contact other authorities. One of the newspaper's reporters visited the area on Friday and tried to represent the case to police. Again there was no proper action.

On Sunday morning Mr. Kichelberger called the newspaper again and said that the cat was howling from cold and hunger. The newspaper staff made a last-minute attempt to contact the authorities but met with the same answers as before. The school authorities could not be contacted to open the building, and it appeared that the cat would die needlessly and painfully with the neighbours' sleep being lost in the bargain.

One of the staff reporters, Sa'ad G. Hattar, then came up with the idea of "breaking-in" and "rescuing" the cat with the help of Abdullah Hassam, our page four and five editor. Sa'ad climbed four floors holding onto a water pipe. One of the neighbours, Bassam Abu Saoud, also scaled the building and together they cornered the animal.



Delegates from 11 Arab and foreign countries and Jordanian experts are attending a symposium on agriculture which opened in Amman on Sunday (Petra photo)

## Dakhqa opens symposium on rain-fed farming

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Agriculture Ahmad Dakhqa Sunday cautioned against the gradual loss of vegetation which, he said, is bound to invite desertification in semi-desert and arid regions of the Arab World.

The minister, in a speech to a symposium on farming in rain-fed regions of the Near East, underlined the importance of employing modern techniques for increasing food production and ensuring food security for the Arab World.

Referring to agricultural endeavours in Jordan, the minister said that pilot agricultural projects are being carried out to develop highland areas, the Zarqa River Basin, and the Hammad Basin near the border with Iraq. The Ministry of Agriculture has established a national agricultural research centre for bolstering the work of the agricultural extension service and transferring modern technology in agriculture to Jordan, the minister said.

Subjects for discussion at this symposium are not a novelty for Jordan which has given priority to agricultural development projects aimed at exploiting water resources, developing animal husbandry and improving production in general, the minister added. He said in his endeavours, the Ministry of Agriculture has been cooperating with private and public organisations.

He said that the Ministry of Agriculture strives to improve the soil, increase fodder and cereal production, promote animal husbandry and to make the best possible use of water resources with the aim of reducing the Kingdom's dependence on imported food.

Mr. Gerald Tower, director of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), made a speech in which he outlined USAID activities and programmes. This meeting covers very important subjects for scientists and planners in all developing nations, Mr. Tower added.

Dr. Mohammad Dweiri, dean of the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Jordan, told the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, that 20 teachers from his faculty are taking part in the symposium. He pointed out that the symposium

was organised in implementation of a recommendation issued by an agricultural seminar which was held in Jordan last March. This gathering, he continued, is a good opportunity to generate further interaction between various experts from Arab and foreign countries.

On the agenda are research papers tackling soil and agriculture, the effect of climate and the availability of water resources on food production and farming in semi-arid regions in Jordan in addition to other related topics.

The symposium has been organised by the Ministry of Agriculture in cooperation with USAID, the University of Jordan, the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) and Yarmouk University. It is being attended by delegates from 11 Arab and foreign countries in addition to a number of regional and international organisations.

Attending the opening session were Yarmouk University President Adnan Badran, WAJ Director Mohammad Saleh Al Keilani and other officials.

## Interested parties organise viewings of Halley's Comet over Jordan

By Najwa Najjar

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — After 76 years out of sight Halley's Comet has reappeared generating considerable interest in Jordan and although equipment is limited, viewing of the comet has been organised by interested individuals.

All really bright comets, with the exception of Halley's Comet, take hundreds, thousands, or even millions of years to complete their elliptical orbits around the sun, thereby making their appearance difficult to predict. Halley's comet is in a class of its own. It has a period of 76 years and records reveal that it has been observed at every turn since 239 B.C. Presently, Halley's Comet is about 100 million miles away travelling 66,000 miles an hour. On Nov. 27, 1985 the comet was the closest it has been to the earth this time around 58,000 million miles away.

Several individuals in Jordan interested in astronomy organised committees to observe the comet in Dec. 1985. One committee was formed by Dean of the Faculty of Science at the University of Jordan, Dr. Mahamed Hamdan, and included four university professors, Dr. Issa Shahin, Dr. Issa Khabzeis, Dr. Abdel Kader Abed and Dr. Humman Ghassib and a medical doctor, Dr. Abdel Rahman Bader.

The purpose of observing the comet through the university's observatory was to provide first-hand information about Halley's Comet to the university and the community at large, said Dr. Hamdan. He told the Jordan Times that calculations of the comet's path have been graphed to show its position in relation to time. In addition, its relative position as it travels around the sun and the position of the earth have been graphed.

The committee hopes to take pictures of the comet as it reappears in March after it has travelled around the sun. Dr. Hamdan said that several student organisations have expressed interest in participation. At present the university is planning to offer courses dealing with astronomy for those who have an interest in this field. An introduction to astronomy and a degree in space physics will be offered at the beginning of the next academic year, he said.

Local viewing committee

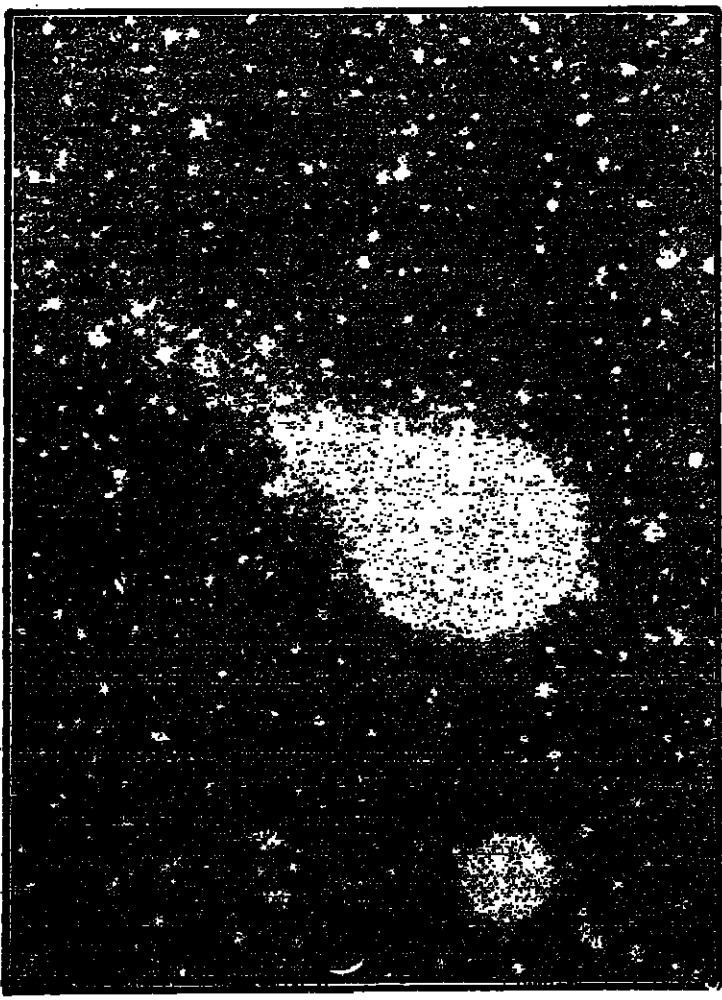
The French Cultural Centre also organised a committee last December to observe Halley's Comet. The viewing, done with a small telescope and binoculars

was open to the public, said Mr. Joseph Pascal, from the cultural centre. Mr. Pascal hopes to organise a similar event in March, but said that he has to first see how clear the comet is. He told the Jordan Times that since Jordan's latitude is 32°, the best time to observe Halley's Comet is two hours before the sun rises between Mar. 5-25 and in the evening sky, one or two hours after the sun sets, from April 20-25.

On the international level, the comet will be observed for the first time this March by an international armada of space crafts: VEGA 1 and 2 probes left the Soviet Union in December; the Japanese Planet A and Sakigake spacecrafts were launched last year and the European Giotto probe left the jungles of French Guiana last July. All are scheduled to encounter Halley in March 1986. Their main tasks will be to investigate the conditions in the immediate vicinity of the comet and also to try and find out just where its nucleus is.

In addition, there will be an "International Halley Watch" which is a ground-based effort involving approximately 1,000 professional and 700 amateur astronomers from 50 countries who will photograph the comet. All comet observatories around the world are being coordinated by the International Halley Watch Organisation. The main centres are based at the U.S. Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, and the University of Engler in Nuremberg, West Germany. The flood of data from spacecrafts, satellites, space shuttles, mountain top observatories and hand-held telescopes will pour into these two centres where it will be stored and later published in a document for use by researchers and future generations.

"The reason why Halley's Comet has attracted interest both in Jordan and internationally is because it is a primitive body composed of material that has been frozen since the beginning of the solar system, over 4,500 million years ago," according to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) office of space science applications. NASA believes that the study of these cosmic balls of ice and dust will give scientists new insights into the formation of the solar system and origin of life.



Halley's Comet as photographed by the Naval Observatory in Washington

## Regent visits UDD, tours urban development projects

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday visited the Urban Development Department (UDD), which is run by Amman Municipality, and was briefed on its activities and programmes.

Prince Hassan met with Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Marwan Hmoud, Amman Mayor Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh, Housing Bank Director General Zuhair Khouri, Amman municipal council members, the secretary general of the Ministry of Planning and the UDD director.

During the meeting the Regent was briefed on the two major projects carried out by the UDD in

the Amman region including scheme which involve building homes for low-income families and developing poor districts of Amman. He was told that the private sector is being encouraged to contribute to UDD projects and to provide homes for poor families.

Later, Prince Hassan made a tour of eastern Wadwat and Um Tbech districts and inspected work on UDD social community centre and a vocational training

institute in the two districts.

He also visited Marka where he inspected a new housing project and health centres, schools and sports facilities carried out by the UDD. During his tour, Prince Hassan met with local people and enquired about their conditions and the services offered to them by the local authorities.

Prince Hassan expressed his appreciation for the integrated services and programmes organised by UDD for the benefit of local communities. He also gave directives concerning urban development which, he said, should be carried out in cooperation with the Housing Corporation and other concerned authorities.

## Department issues study on population growth rates

AMMAN (J.T.) — A study prepared by the Department of Statistics reveals that Jordan has registered a sharp rate of growth in the population since the middle of the present century has resulted in continued pressure on the country's meagre natural resources.

The study said that since Jordan has very limited agricultural and mineral resources, its manpower has been directed towards acquiring more educational skills under to benefit the economy in an indirect manner. According to the study, Jordan's East Bank population in 1984 stood at 2,595,100, of whom 1,357,500 were males.

The study said that the main reasons for the high rise in population growth is the high birth rate and the drop in mortality rate, in addition to immigration. The population in the East Bank of Jordan was augmented by Palestinian refugees evicted from their homeland in 1948, and approximately 400,000 settled in the East Bank by the year 1961. The population reached 2,218,300 in 1980 which means that the number of people in Jordan increased by one and a half times over a period of 30 years, the study noted.

The report says Jordan's East Bank is 989,206 square kilometres in area of which only 12.5 per cent is inhabited by the population. 60 per cent of whom live in urban areas. But, it says that nearly 55 per cent of the total number of people live in the capital Amman and that the three most populous cities are Amman, Zarqa and Irbid.

According to the study, the birth rate and the low mortality rate in Jordan are responsible for the great increase in population since 1952, considered among the world's highest.

## Snow expected today

By Sa'ad G. Hattar  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Snow is expected today over mountainous areas including Ajloun, Balqa and western Amman while cold weather and heavy rain will continue in other parts of the Kingdom. Meteorology Department Director Ali Abanda said Sunday.

Dr. Abanda said that the snowfall is expected due to a deep depression which formed and developed over central Turkey during the past two days. The depression was associated with several cold fronts from polar origins, the last of which crossed the Kingdom on Sunday in advance of snow in the southern part of the Kingdom over the Sharah mountains. Dr. Abanda told the Jordan Times.

Moving eastwards towards Syria, the depression caused another polar front to move towards the region across Turkey, leading to a further drop in temperatures and causing wind speeds of up to 100 kilometres per hour in some areas.

Dr. Abanda said that the rainfall over the past few days would

raise the total rainfall of the present season to approach the normal levels registered in previous years.

On Sunday, the Public Security Department (PSD) warned drivers of hazardous road conditions in the southern parts of the Kingdom. The PSD announcement, which was carried by the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said the Ma'an-Shobak road was almost impassable due to heavy snowfall and other desert roads were also dangerous because of dust and ice.

In Karak Governorate, government officials asked companies based at Ghor Al Safi to contribute to the Civil Defence rescue operations by making available their machinery for any contingency. Ghor Safi District Governor Abdul Karim Malahmeh also called on the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) to stay on alert to deal with any incident which could result from the snowfall.

In Amman, several parts of the city had an electricity black out and a number of traffic lights were out of operation.

## Fuel bill reaches \$650m

AMMAN (J.T.) — Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources officials have revealed that Jordan's 1985 fuel bill was a total of \$650 million. The officials, who were quoted by the Arabic daily Sawt Al Shaab, said that the \$650 million figure is equivalent to 82 per cent of Jordan's exports in 1985, or 11 per cent of the Gross National Product (GNP).

The officials also specified sectors which consumed large amounts of oil in relation to the total fuel bill: Transport (45 per cent), industry (23 per cent) and domestic purposes (19 per cent). The overall consumption of fuel for electricity, water heating and heating totalled 23 per cent.

The Minister of Finance had earlier told Lower House of Par-

liament members that the volume of fuel subsidies reached JD 25 million in 1985 and said that JD 5 million has been allocated for fuel subsidies in 1986. The minister made these comments during the unveiling of Jordan's 1986 budget and Dr. Odeh said that the subsidy for fuel in 1986 will have to be reduced due to the decline of the exchange rate for the dollar and forecasts of a decline in oil prices. The draft budget also said that Jordan imports all of its energy needs, which constitutes 20 per cent of all national imports. Deputies who discussed the draft budget before it was approved by Royal Decree, urged the government to cut its subsidies on fuel in order to reduce the JD 37 million deficit in the 1986 budget.

## King meets Murphy in London

(Continued from page 1)

Chairman Yasser) Arafat arrives in Amman," a Jordanian official said. Mr. Arafat is due in Amman "any time now," one PLO official said Sunday.

Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres said in The Hague on Sunday Jordan was serious in moving forward the peace process, and the Soviet Union could be one of the participants in a Middle East peace conference.

"I do believe King Hussein is serious to bridge any differences that are at the source of the conflict," Peres told a press conference shortly after his arrival in The Netherlands as part of a nine-day European tour which will also take him to London.

Peres added that "there remain two problems, the international

conference and the Palestinian representation. But we're working day and night to try to solve these remaining problems," according to the Associated Press.

Mr. Murphy, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near East Affairs, was scheduled to meet with Peres late Sunday in the Dutch capital.

Aboard his airplane on his way to The Hague, Peres told reporters that "the international forum can be formed either by the two superpowers or by the five members of the U.S. Security Council" of which the Soviet Union is a member.

Farouk Kaddouri, head of the PLO's political department, returned recently from Moscow, where he held talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard She-

vardnadze and other Soviet officials. The talks reportedly centred on improving PLO-Soviet ties and exploring possibilities of a Soviet-mediated reconciliation between the PLO and Syria.

Commenting on the PLO's recent diplomatic efforts to improve ties with Moscow, the senior Jordanian official said last week the development "is a two-edged sword. It could either further complicate the political game or strengthen the organisation and help us all move with the peace process."

Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, who took part in the King's talks in London with Mrs. Thatcher and Mr. Murphy, returned home Sunday. Lower House of Parliament Speaker Akef Al Fayed also returned from London on Sunday after a private visit.

## Peres, Gonzalez formalise relations

(Continued from page 1)

Mideast peace process, and Peres' statement appeared to be designed as a concession to the Arab desire for a Soviet role.

In a related development, the 46-nation Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) has expressed "the Muslim world's concern and regret" over Spain's establishment of diplomatic relations with Israel.

OIC Secretary-General Sharifuddin Pirzadeh said in a statement to reporters in Jeddah that Israel was "gaining respectability, despite its violations of international laws and norms."

Mr. Pirzadeh noted Spain's statement that it has not recognised Israel's claim to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

"Nevertheless the Islamic World views this development with concern and regret," he added.

Iran recalled its ambassador in

Madrid for consultations over Spain and Israel establishing diplomatic links on Friday, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported.

Iran's Foreign Ministry also called in Spain's ambassador to Iran "to explain his country's decision," IRNA said.

"Due to the aggressive and criminal nature of the Zionist regime, the move of the Spanish government was an insult to Muslims and will create problems in Spain's relations with Islamic and Arab countries," IRNA quoted Ali Ahani, Foreign Ministry director-general for Europe and America, as telling the Spanish ambassador.

"We gave clarifications," Spanish diplomat in Iran told Reuters. Kuwait announced it was recalling its ambassador in Madrid to discuss Spain's decision to establish diplomatic ties with Israel.

"Kuwait expresses regret at Spain's decision to establish dip-

lomatic relations with Israel. The Foreign Ministry has decided to recall the ambassador to Madrid, Jassim Al Sabagh, for further consultations on the matter," a Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

He described the Spanish decision as a "negative" move, which failed to take into account the circumstances facing the Palestinian cause.

The move lent political and moral support to Israel at a time it chose to reject all international, Arab and Palestinian initiatives for Middle East peace, he said. Spain's decision has jeopardised its traditional role as a bridge between Europe and the Arab World, the official Algerian daily El Moudjahid said.

It said Spain's decision, marked the beginning of "a serious turn in its foreign policy" and was the price Madrid had to pay to join the European Community.



By Fakhri Qawar

## Guest Column

## Jordanian students abroad: In pursuit of study, fall victims of violence

OUR sons abroad are sometimes exposed to humiliation, blackmailing and harassment and even for being hit and killed in some instances.

Offices that promote higher university study in certain countries, in order to tempt Jordanian students to enroll in foreign universities, are not reliable nor are they faithful in their description of the countries they promote for.

Frankly speaking, I know of no such offices, which promote for study abroad, that have told students directly or through their pamphlets that the Filipino capital of Manila lacks

security and safety. Similarly I cannot recall that any of these offices has told these students that the Filipino universities work on three shift basis.

These offices do not mention or like to mention anything about these hard facts, because they are only concerned over cashing large sums of money from students.

Last week a father of a Jordanian student attending a Filipino university called at the Al Ra'i newspaper to inform us that his son Salah was killed in the Philippines.

Describing how his son Salah was killed the man said that

while his son was leaving the flat where he lived at a late hour on the new year's eve to join his friends he was stopped by three Filipino youths who talked to him in Filipino language. Being ignorant of that language Salah did not know what they wanted and could not answer them. They started beating him. Trying to defend himself, Salah was stabbed by knife in his chest; he escaped with his injury but the three youths followed him. He threw himself on the ground pretending that he was dead. The three youths escaped and Salah crept towards the closest door

and knocked seeking help, but the house dweller did not respond. A street beggar, who found Salah, helped him home and later, with the help of Salah's friends, rushed him to the hospital.

Fifteen hours after the incident took place, the police came and asked one of the nurses about the victim's name and nationality but asked Salah no questions. The hospital then performed an operation on Salah to save his life, but only in vain.

This incident demands a long pause, because neither the Jordanian honorary consulate in

Manila nor the Jordanian Embassy in Tokyo have taken any action.

But thanks to a Jordanian citizen, who was born in the Philippines and who extended all possible help to Salah's father when he went to claim his son's corpse. That chivalrous citizen even promised the father to follow up on the case with the Filipino authorities, who refused to register any Filipino as witness to the murder.

Salah's incident is not the first, we have heard of many other incidents, similar to this. The killing of Salah should be a lesson for us. We should look

after our sons whether in the Philippines or elsewhere and not leave them a prey for murderers.

The university study offices should also be strictly controlled.

Salah's incident also urges us to think seriously of broadening the admission bases in our universities, since Salah's average grade was more than 82 per cent, yet he could not secure an admission to any of the Jordanian universities in Amman, Irbid or Karak.

The writer is a columnist at Al Rai Arabic daily.

## For understanding terrorism look at American role abroad

By Moorhead Kennedy

LOS ANGELES — The indiscriminate massacre of innocent holiday travelers at two European airports by terrorists has deepened the American sense of vulnerability and turned many comfortable assumptions about the United States upside down.

Our technological superiority, a primary source of our nation's strength and standard of living, today is providing terrorism with its tools and primary targets. The United States is responsible, more than any other nation, for the age, and for the ease and rapidity of international travel, which groups potential victims and hostages and sets them up for terrorist action.

We have produced a highly articulated society, in which electricity and gas are brought to large urban centres by conduits easy to demolish. Middle Eastern terrorism, which is growing in scope and technical sophistication, may well spread to our shores.

As it does, our urban centres themselves will become potential hostages. We cannot post guards at every pylon of every power grid, or on every gas pipeline, or, for that matter, in every subway tunnel. We cannot body-search every passenger on every domestic flight. All these measures would entail constraints on our personal liberties that would be intolerable, not to mention costs that would be prohibitive.

*Israel's future security as well as that of the United States depends on the recognition that Israel demands for itself and that we Americans guarantee the peace process.*

The communications revolution sparked by Americans now delivers terrorism's message, as it has that of the forces arrayed against us and against Israel for the past 30 years. The transistor radio in the 1950s carried Gamal Abdul Nasser's inflammatory words to virtually every Arab between Morocco and the Gulf.

In Paris, the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini taped his sermons so that, via the direct-dial telephone system provided to Shah Muhammad Reza Pahlavi by AT & T and GTE, his call to revolution could be relayed to every mosque and broadcast to the faithful throughout Iran.

"Don't ever forget," one of our Iranian guards reminded us, hostages, in January 1980, not long into our captivity, "we're on prime time." Via CBS, ABC and NBC, our student captors managed to make psychological hostages out of a whole nation.

Today, through these same media and their coverage of the carnage that terrorists can create, they can compel the American people to pay attention to their cause — as we never would absent such acts.

With this in mind, some have argued that media coverage of terrorist acts should be restricted, either by government or by the networks themselves, in the hope that, deprived of their theatre, terrorists will produce no more plays. That is rather like turning back one's watch an hour in the hope that will cause the sun to rise an hour earlier.

Middle Eastern terrorists know well that in a free society events of significance have to be brought to public attention.

If terrorist acts of present magnitude are deliberately not covered, the next time Middle East terrorism will simply increase the quantum of horror to the level that compels media coverage. If the La Guardia terminal of the Eastern Air Lines shuttle were blown to smithereens at 5 one afternoon, could mention not be made of this in the press and on television?

The proposal to restrict media coverage displays a naive and superficial appreciation of what motivates the terrorists to perpetrate such acts. Publicity for a cause is only part of the motivation.

The rest, to draw one old-fashioned anarchist language, includes "the deed" — a semi-mystical, almost ritualistic, often

self-sacrificial concept of their act. Through it, devotees consecrate themselves to their cause.

In the case of the Palestinians, "the deed" is an assertion through risk and self-sacrifice of the national identity, the existence of which the principal target countries, the United States and Israel, have denied. "The deed" serves to bond, to pull adherents together and solidify support. Thus it serves to counter the disunity that in large measure cost the Palestinians their homeland in 1947 and 1948 and which continues to plague them today.

Mixed with these motives is usually an element of retribution for a perceived injustice, arising from a double standard. Our Iranian captors told us repeatedly that they were "paying America back for its great crimes."

They were especially resentful of the contrast between the Carter administration's proclamation of human rights as the centrepiece of its foreign policy, and its support of the Shah, whose regime was declared by Amnesty International to be at the top of its list of human-rights abusers. We condemn terrorism because of the indiscriminate manner in which it takes innocent human life.

One of the Lebanese who hijacked TWA flight 847 in June 1985 ran up the aisle of the aircraft shouting "New Jersey," a

*If we Americans are to be of any avail in breaking the cycle of Middle Eastern violence to which the U.S. citizens are beginning to fall victim, we must learn to understand the feelings of both parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict.*

Yet, for a nation that has contributed so much to the sophisticated technology on which Middle Eastern terrorism depends and to the political circumstances that keep it alive, we Americans still have a lot to learn about terrorism.

Our confusion shines forth in such documents as U.S. Senate resolution 186 of July 11, 1985, introduced by Sen. Alfonse M. D'Amato of New York, which calls for a treaty to "prevent and respond to terrorism."

Alongside some very useful provisions, including more effective international coordination of intelligence operations, and uniform laws on asylum and extradition, the treaty would "create an internationally accepted definition of terrorism."

In December 1984, I participated in a conference in England on the subject of terrorism. Among a blue-ribbon international group, including senior officials from Scotland Yard, the FBI, politicians, luminaries from the media and academic experts, I was the token hostage. We wasted an entire morning unsuccessfully trying to hammer out an acceptable definition of terrorism, only to take refuge in Lord Clement Attlee's "an elephant is hard to define, but if one comes into the room, you know damn well what it is."

Perhaps a better definition of terrorism would be: "Political action by violent means of which we happen to disapprove." Those whose ends and means we do approve are excused because they are "freedom fighters."

I am reminded in this of World War II, in which German U-boats were "bad" because they "attacked unarmed merchant ships," whereas U.S. submarines were "good" because they "swept the seas of Jap shipping."

American judges repeatedly have turned down British requests for the extradition of gunmen from the IRA, whose terrorist actions have been no less noxious than those perpetrated by others. Our judges rely on a clause in the extradition treaty exempting from extradition crimes such as murder if they can be classified as "political offenses."

Such a treaty, along with the U.S. constitution, is the highest law of the land. In effect, it says that we protect all murderers, arsonists and burglars, provided that their motives are those of politics, rather than of rage, greed or lust.

Criminal action, justified by political motive, is one definition of terrorism.

A distinction becomes which of our national interests are served by which irregular groups and which groups work against our national interest.

Rather than wallow around in the definitional bog any longer, I would like instead to offer a three-point approach to Middle Eastern terrorism that may help the reader to make some sense out of it:

Of course, we get angry when our fellow Americans are killed or taken hostage. We should. But moral outrage at the use of means that we have used ourselves, or supported or tolerated when used by others, only makes us look hypocritical. It clouds the sharpness of our vision and renders us less effective when we try to deal with the problem.

Middle Eastern terrorists are at war with us and our allies. We must therefore defend ourselves, pursuing terrorists whose activities threaten our national interests, the lives and freedom of our citizenry, the security of our allies or world order. We must seek punishment for terrorist acts in accordance with the norms of criminal law, or in exceptional cases, by extra-judicial means, especially when these are adequately deniable.

We should avoid the natural temptation, implicit in the D'Amato resolution, of making terrorism itself a crime. The conceptual and definitional morass that will open up has been pointed out.

Moreover, if one gives practitioners of terrorism a legal status apart from that of common criminals, you only dignify terrorism and furnish justification for murder, arson or any other crime.

In particular, we cannot be seen to be yielding to unacceptable terrorist demands, such as the release of the four Americans still held by Lebanese in exchange for the release of those who blew up the French and American embassies in Kuwait in 1983 and who subsequently were tried and convicted by the Kuwaiti government.

I personally have experienced the despair that our captive compatriots must be feeling, but the U.S. government cannot undermine the efforts of other governments to protect our embassies



*One of the Lebanese who hijacked TWA flight 847 in June 1985 ran up the aisle of the aircraft shouting "New Jersey," a point not immediately understood by the passengers. Later he told one of them that his wife and daughter had been killed in the indiscriminate shelling of Lebanese villages by the USS New Jersey in September 1983.*

and to otherwise enforce the rules that nations live by.

We also should not deceive ourselves that controlling damage while maintaining some shreds of legality in an increasingly anarchic world, will afford more than momentary and symptomatic relief. We may bring quite a few Middle Eastern terrorists to justice. Others will step up to take their place.

Hijacking the hijackers of the cruise ship *Achille Lauro* in no way deterred other terrorist episodes. We must face the reality that no amount of military strength, no operations however brilliantly conducted, can deter the spread of terrorism to our shores.

What, then, can we do? Israel's future security, as well as our own,

depend that we both extend to the Palestinian people, through their representatives in the PLO, the recognition that Israel demands for itself and that we guarantee the peace process.

This is not caving in before terrorism, but undercutting and eliminating the forces that give rise to it. In a larger sense, it means real and overdue dialogue with the Third World — Los Angeles Times.

*Moorhead Kennedy, acting economic counselor when the U.S. Embassy in Tehran was seized in 1979, is executive director of the Council for International Understanding in New York and will soon publish a forthcoming book on Tehran hostage crisis.*

## For Libyans used to austerity, U.S. sanctions mean little

By Kate Dourian  
Renter

TRIPOLI — For Libyans accustomed to austerity since the end of the oil boom, U.S. economic sanctions are unlikely to make much of a difference.

Shortages of basic goods, long queues at stores, a thriving black market and even near-riots to obtain delicacies such as bananas, are all part of life in the Libyan capital.

President Ronald Reagan last week barred U.S. commercial and financial contact with Libya, for alleged links with those responsible for the December 27 attacks at Rome and Vienna airports which left 19 people, including five Americans, dead.

Libya has denied the link but, in any case, the American sanctions and a freeze of Libyan assets in the United States are not likely to change much here.

Libya's income from crude oil exports, by far its biggest revenue source, has dropped to an estimated

58 billion in 1985, down from a peak of \$22 billion in 1980, diplomats said.

A Confidential International Monetary Fund (IMF) staff report dated May 1985 shows the economy has weakened since the end of the oil boom in 1981, through to 1985, when it was expected to show only small growth.

The revenue drop has led Libya to curb its budget deficit, and this has meant austerity for Libyans but brought praise from the IMF report, which called the efforts "commendable."

Deep public spending cuts helped slash the deficit to a projected 700 million dinars (\$8 billion). Libya has had to curb imports drastically to rectify a balance of payments deficit. In 1981, it went \$5.1 billion in the red, but the IMF predicted last year's shortfall would drop to \$1.94 billion.

But it has resulted in a severe shortage of basic goods, such as soap, washing powder, oil and butter.

Long queues form daily at vegetable stores in Tripoli, where

oranges and carrots are the most abundant produce. The arrival of a banana cargo from Nicaragua a few months ago caused a near riot, the diplomats said.

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, who dreams of creating a society self-sufficient in food, said last year that the queues showed Libyans were rich and could afford to buy things.

He told five women journalists last week that the shortages were deliberate and part of his policy to force the consumer-oriented Libyans to become productive.

"These petroleum societies are lazy everywhere. People are lazy because they are used to having more money and they want everything available. The revolution wants to change this life," Qadhafi said.

"Sometimes, we deliberately withdraw items and cause some items to disappear to make the people produce."

Western diplomats say that the shortages are caused by a combination of factors, including im-

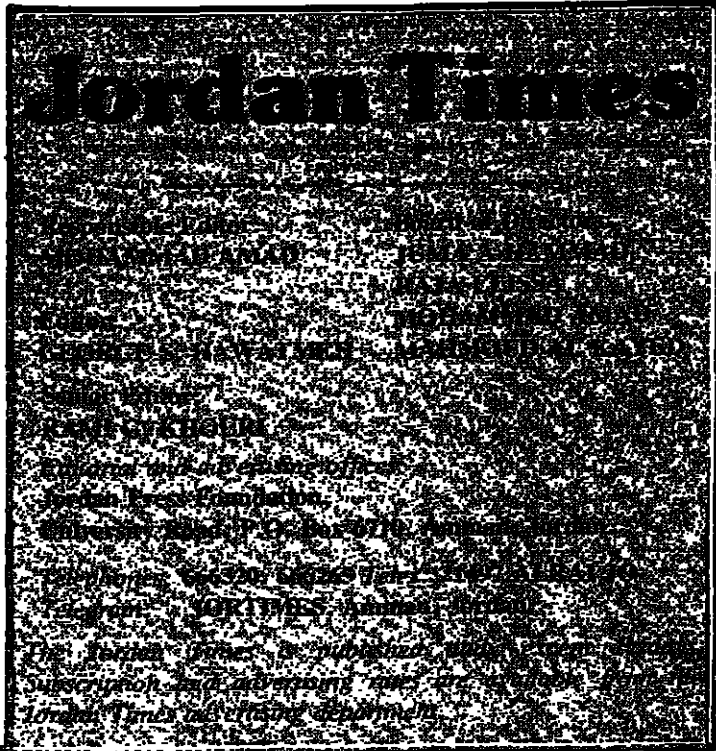
port reductions, poor distribution and corruption by those whom Qadhafi refers to as "the exploitative merchant classes."

They say a lot of the farm produce does not get to the official market, but is sold at inflated prices on an active black market. Meat, for example, which officially sells at \$8.50 a kilo, commands about \$13 on the black market.

The Libyan basic people's congresses, through which Libyans practice self rule, are now debating basing import procedures more on the supply and demand and thinking of setting up a central body to handle imports.

But despite the difficulties of everyday life, Libya is classified by the World Bank as a high-income oil exporter and per capita income is \$7,350 a year.

Libya is currently producing between 900,000 to one million barrels per day (BPD) of crude oil, and its foreign debt is estimated at \$7 billion.



## The shame goes on

THE UNITED States' veto of a Security Council resolution demanding Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon is perhaps not surprising, but strikes us nevertheless as an act of high-grade hypocrisy. The United States vetoed the resolution because it was thought not to be "balanced." Yet, for the United States to espouse "balance" vis-a-vis the Arab-Israeli conflict is a posture based on extraordinary bravado, and, we suggest, shamelessness.

If the United States is so concerned about balance, why did it support the concept of an independent Palestinian state in 1947, but rejects it today?

Why does it claim to oppose Israeli settlements in the occupied territories because they are an obstacle to peace, but then go on to finance those settlements with abandon?

Why does it turn a blind eye to the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and Israeli attacks against Arab states and PLO offices, but put on a show of moral frenzy when Israeli citizens are killed?

The United States is correct in stressing balance as a key element in resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict peacefully, to the satisfaction of all. But it is the last party to step forward and talk about balance with a straight face. The United States' policy in the Middle East has been a paradigm of imbalance, favoritism and double standards, reflected across the board in the fields of political, economic and military relations with Arabs and Israelis. It is clear that the United States' Middle East policy is based on the primacy of Israeli concerns, with American-Arab ties coming in a distant second. The United States leadership — to its credit — leaves no doubts about this fact, and repeats it at least three times a month. Why the Arab World acknowledges this reality without doing anything about it will remain a question for future generations to resolve.

In the meantime, we can only point out the deplorable cycle of American hypocrisy and Arab apparent helplessness. It is a cycle that will perpetuate itself, unless it is broken by an Arab re-awakening, or an American determination to apply American principles equally to all people around the world — even to Arabs. On the occasion of Martin Luther King Day, Americans might take the time to ponder this thought.

## ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

## Al Ra'i: Another Arab conflict

THE CIVIL war in South Yemen has been going on for six days now while the Arab countries are ignoring it, as if the bloody events are not of their concern. The conflict in Aden and other parts of South Yemen opens a third wound for shedding Arab blood following that of the Gulf conflict which has lasted for six years and the civil strife in Lebanon which has lasted for 11 years. No doubt the enemies of the Arab World are the only beneficiaries of the on-going wars, and they must surely have been behind inciting and helping such conflicts to last for as long as ever. The escalation of the war in South Yemen indicates that the struggle for power will last for a long time specially after the tribes of Yemen have become involved in the civil war. We realise that the conflict inside South Yemen concerns that country's people alone, but it is astonishing to see the other Arab countries taking a passive attitude towards this conflict and not trying to stop it in any possible manner. It is true that the Soviet Union and North Yemen have exerted some efforts towards this end, but it must be emphasised that the Arab countries through the Arab League should take meaningful steps to put an end to the bloody conflict.

## Al Dustour: Lebanon's plight

THE CURRENT events within the Falangist camp in Lebanon and the dramatic changes in the positions within the Maronite alliance indicate that the country is still far away from reaching a comprehensive peace. The conflict among the warring factions in east Beirut broke out as the other Lebanese political groups were preparing to implement the Damascus accord which is supported by most of the Lebanese people as a remaining hope for permanent peace in their country. The new conflict in the Maronite camp can by no means destroy the Damascus agreement, but it can delay its implementation for some time, and it is therefore regrettable to see more bloodshed in the embattled country. If the leaders of the major alliances in Lebanon cannot agree on a formula for a ceasefire then more fighting is bound to take place in all regions of Lebanon, since the warring groups now possess far more advanced weapons than they did during the early years of the war. Needless to say that Israel and its allies are the only beneficiaries of this futile conflict.

## Sawt Al Shaab: Another veto from U.S.

WASHINGTON'S RESORT to the veto at the United Nations Security Council has become a standing U.S. policy whenever the Middle East issue is discussed at the world organisation. The U.S. will continue to use the right of veto as long as it provides protection to the Zionist state and provides it with the means to pursue its terrorist measures against the Arabs. All Israeli attacks on Lebanon and its aggression on other Arab countries and its continued occupation of Arab lands in Palestine and the Golan would not have lasted and continued had it not been for the total support and backing of Washington. Therefore, Washington can by no means serve as a fair arbitrator or a mediator between the conflicting parties in the Middle East. Washington, cannot be a defender of international law as it claims to be, and can only be considered as an adversary of the Arab Nation, helping and inciting the Arab enemies to commit all forms of aggression and terrorism against the Arab Nation.



## British police say news blackouts save lives of kidnap victims

By Brian Mooney

**REUTERS**  
LONDON — The release of a prominent Arab businessman, kidnapped in London two weeks ago, follows a voluntary news blackout by the media in Britain, a policy that police say saves lives.

"We are convinced press silence in these cases saves lives and it also possibly explains why the kidnap industry has never spread to Britain," police spokesman Malcolm Johnson said.

The kidnapping of Mohamed Sadiq Al Tajir, brother of the United Arab Emirates ambassador to London, was the seventh use of the system since it was devised by Johnson in 1975.

Johnson, head of the news branch at London's Scotland Yard police headquarters, said in each case press silence had been instrumental in the safe recovery of the victims.

The blackout works on the basis that journalists are kept fully informed about developments on condition they only release their stories when the hostage is either freed or killed.

The system raises potentially

awkward questions about the relationship between press and police but British editors seem happy to go along with it when a life is at stake.

"I think it is a responsible and intelligent way of handling press coverage of this particular crime," Sir David English, editor of the popular Daily Mail, told Reuters.

"I see no reason not to continue supporting it," he said.

Mohamed Sadiq Al Tajir, 45, was held for 11 days, police said.

A spokesman for Scotland Yard police headquarters said he had been found safe and well in south London.

It was not immediately clear whether the motive for the kidnapping was political or for financial gain.

News of the abduction was withheld from the public under a voluntary media blackout arrangement which London police have requested in six previous cases in the past decade in which kidnap victims have been threatened with death.

Sadiq sent at least four letters to his brother, UAE ambassador Sayed Mohamed Mahdi Al Tajir, warning that he could be killed if the police were contacted.

"Please do not contact the police by any method whatsoever so that you do not expose me to death," Sadiq wrote.

Police said they believed media silence helped to convince Sadiq's captors that the authorities had not been informed — as they had instructed — and that it probably contributed to saving his life.

Sadiq's captors had originally demanded £50 million (\$70 million) but the ransom was whittled down during negotiations that spanned three continents, police said.

The negotiations were handled by Sadiq's brother who, in addition to being a diplomat, is a fabulously wealthy businessman who ranks himself among the world's richest men.

Ambassador Mahdi Al Tajir's fortune is estimated at between one and two billion sterling (\$1.4 to 2.8 billion).

Police said the ransom demands were conveyed to the ambassador by an Arab-speaking man, whom they identified only as Mr. X, in a succession of more than 20 telephone calls.

The first call came from the United States on January 7, the

day after Sadiq was last seen in London.

Mr. X, shadowed by British and foreign police, subsequently travelled to two European countries and the Middle East as the negotiations bogged down in details over how the ransom was to be paid and demands of proof that the hostage was still alive.

The kidnappers sent two photographs of Sadiq showing him lying on a bed with a blindfold by his side and a Sunday newspaper behind his head.

Sadiq, who has been resident in London for 14 years, runs a travel business.

A nephew of the Al Tajir brothers went to Europe to hand over the three-million-dollar ransom in a bank draft that was set to be cashed the moment Sadiq was released unharmed.

Police believe the hostage was held in London throughout his captivity.

The four handwritten letters he sent to his brother, all in Arabic, were postmarked in London and a package containing one of the photographs showed Sadiq in front of a copy of the January 12 London Sunday Express.

The ambassador was alerted to the package later that day and it was picked up by a member of his staff under the supervision of the anti-terrorist squad.

In a letter dated the same day, Sadiq told his brother that he was under considerable stress and worried about his health.

It read: "Dear brother Mahdi — please do the impossible to free me because my life is in danger as I have informed in my previous message. Also my health condition is not good and my morale is upset. Please do the necessary and please hurry in this matter. And do not try now to contact the police or any other Arab party, official or unofficial, to mediate in this matter, because that will surely expose me to death."

Ambassador Mahdi Al Tajir is regarded as one of the most controversial diplomats in London.

He has held the post twice, resigning after a 10-year stint in 1982, reportedly to avoid the duties of being doyen of the diplomatic corps. He resumed the post in 1983.

The ambassador incurred a rare official rebuke from the British authorities when he failed to take

up a seat that had been reserved for him at the state opening of parliament in 1979.

He also broke etiquette by failing to pay a farewell visit to the Queen when he departed in 1982. She did not receive him when he returned to present his credentials the following year.

The owner of a string of fine houses in Britain — among them Windlesham Moor, near Ascot, a former home of the Queen, three residences in London, Keir Castle in Scotland and Mereworth Castle in Kent — Mahdi Al Tajir built his fortune in the boom years of development in the oil-rich Gulf.

For many years he was head of customs in Dubai.

Asked once how many houses he owned in Britain, he replied: "I don't know. A few."

An avid silver collector, the ambassador also acquired many of the treasures of the late Shah of Iran, which he flew to London duty free in two packed Boeing 747s.

Police quoted the ambassador as saying that left to himself he would not have paid the ransom for his brother. He said it was a family decision to pay up, not his.

## Low-rise chimneys: a pollution solution

Burning coal is dirty, and the conventional solution — tall smokestacks — is expensive. Now a Chinese engineer has invented a low-cost, low-rise chimney which traps pollutants. Wang Pingping, a journalist with China features news service, wrote this article especially for *Earthscan*.

**PEKING, China** — A young Chinese engineer had enough faith in his own innovative chimney design to pledge four years' wages on it. He seems to have won his gamble.

Sheng Tiwen's successful efforts to reduce air pollution grew out of his mother of invention — necessity. He works for an experimental power plant at Yiyang county in central China's Hunan Province which had to stop operation for six months each year because it burns low-quality bone and slaty coal.

This fuel has a high ash content, and its chimney belched out 1.3 tonnes of sulphur dioxide and even more ash every hour. Yields in neighbouring rice fields were falling because of these emissions, officials said.

Scientists called to investigate the 60-metre chimney suggested its height be tripled to prevent the smoke from polluting the surrounding fields. But the plant could not afford such an expensive chimney. Sheng, the plant's deputy chief engineer, had to seek another solution. In the end he designed a special 120-metre chimney which dilutes the smoke effectively.

Chimneys higher than 200 metres are common in China as well as in other countries. They seem to keep growing for it is generally believed that high chimneys spread emissions over a wider area, and thus protect the environment.

Before the new chimney was constructed, a group of experts called together to examine Sheng's design was reluctant to approve it. His plans were not supported by existing theories of chimney construction. Sheng had to take a drastic step to convince his bosses. He promised to pay \$5,000 yuan (\$1,667) — about four years' wages — as compensation should his design fail.

Sheng drew inspiration from the

firing of cannons: a short barrel can send a shell a long distance if the shell has achieved a high muzzle velocity before leaving the barrel. If a lower chimney could help the flue gas get a high "muzzle velocity," he theorized, it would "shoot" the gas high, and so he concentrated on the problem of increasing the velocity of the flue gas.

A key part of his design is the diversionary device installed at the inner rim of the top of the chimney. It controls the speed and direction of the smoke. Also, the bricks on the chimney's inner wall are laid in a spiral pattern from bottom to top.

"The bricks can help the smoke spiral up and cause a large part of the particles to settle within the

chimney," Sheng says. The entrance of the smoke to the chimney is also modified to increase the speed of the flow. Other modifications include a chimney base which is bigger than the mouth.

The new chimney was put into operation in January 1984 at a cost equivalent to about \$200,000. Air samples taken at 22 points within five kilometres of the chimney proved satisfactory, with dust discharges considerably below state standards. Oxides of nitrogen and sulphur, implicated in the chemical reaction which produces acid pollution, were also below the state maximum.

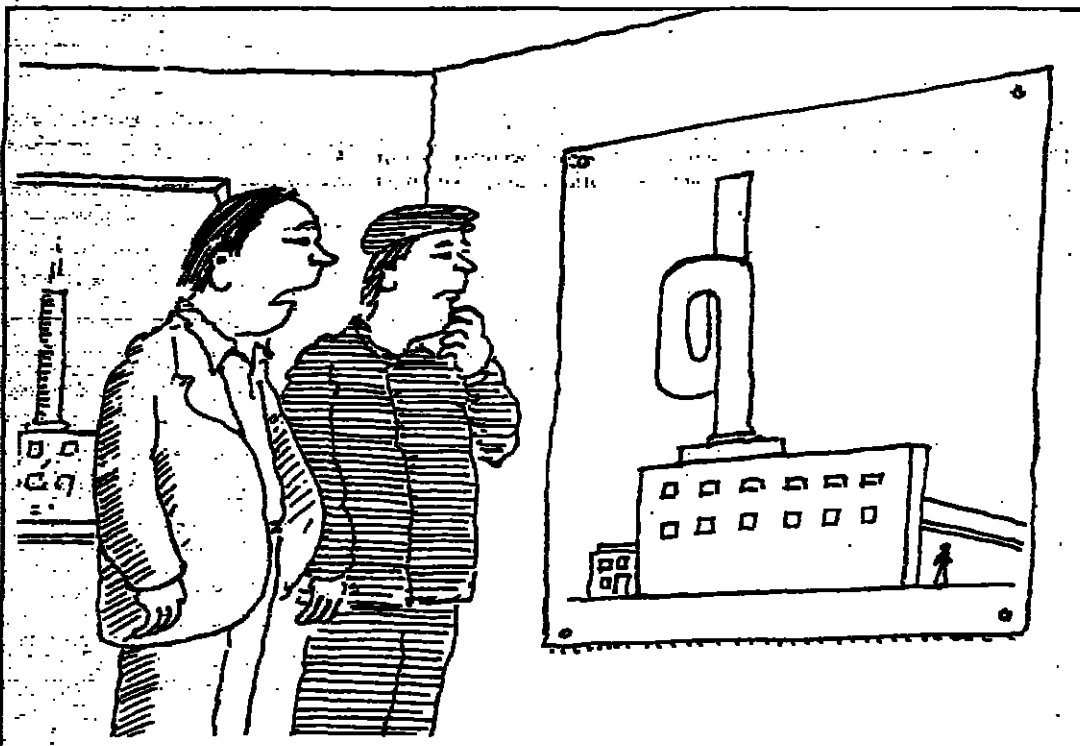
An environmental protection officer noted that the new chimney works like a dust remover. As a bonus, the new chimney has an increased lifespan because the diversionary device prevents erosion of the chimney body.

A 20-year veteran of iron and steel plants, Sheng was awarded

5,000 yuan — the amount he had pledged to forfeit — by the Hunan Provincial Commission of Science and Technology when his design succeeded. He is now the director and chief engineer of the newly-founded China Huaxiang Efficient Chimney Operation, which specialises in designing and building the new chimney.

Since its establishment in September 1984, about 200 power plants and smelteries in China have contacted the firm regarding their chimneys. A number have been successfully installed, and some foreign firms have also expressed interest in the design.

Sheng is now eager to acquire a patent for his chimney. China's new patent law went into force in April 1985, and Sheng was among the early applicants. Having gained and won on his creative thinking, he wants some protection for his efforts — Earthscan feature.



"Contrary to Sheng's design was based on a cannon. I used a trumpet!" (Cartoon by David Austin — Earthscan)

## Former chiefs of staff tell white House secrets

**SAN DIEGO, California (R)** — President Dwight Eisenhower had a regular place of advice for his White House staff — "Now boys, don't let us make our mistakes in a hurry."

General Alexander Haig, when confronted with air by President Richard Nixon that he did not like said: "Right boys, I wish I had thought of that" — and then gave Mr. Nixon time to think things over.

White House Chief of Staff Ted Sorensen, when trying to divert an idea by President John Kennedy, had a stock reply: "That sounds like something Dick Nixon would have thought of."

These and other presidential secrets were revealed on Friday at a unique discussion by seven former White House chiefs of staff and a special presidential adviser covering six presidents, from Mr. Eisenhower in 1954 to President Jimmy Carter.

The discussions, before a packed audience at a theatre at the University of California at San Diego, covered how to talk a president out of a "damned fool idea," said he was once ordered by Mr. Nixon to start lie detector tests of everybody in the

State Department — a controversy recently renewed when Secretary of State George Shultz said he would not take such a test.

"Nixon asked me 'Have you got the lie detector test started?'" Mr. Haldeman said.

"No, I don't intend to," Mr. Haldeman replied, adding: "Mr. President, I think this really is a mistake."

"I didn't think you'd do it," Mr. Nixon replied, Mr. Haldeman said, adding the tests were not started.

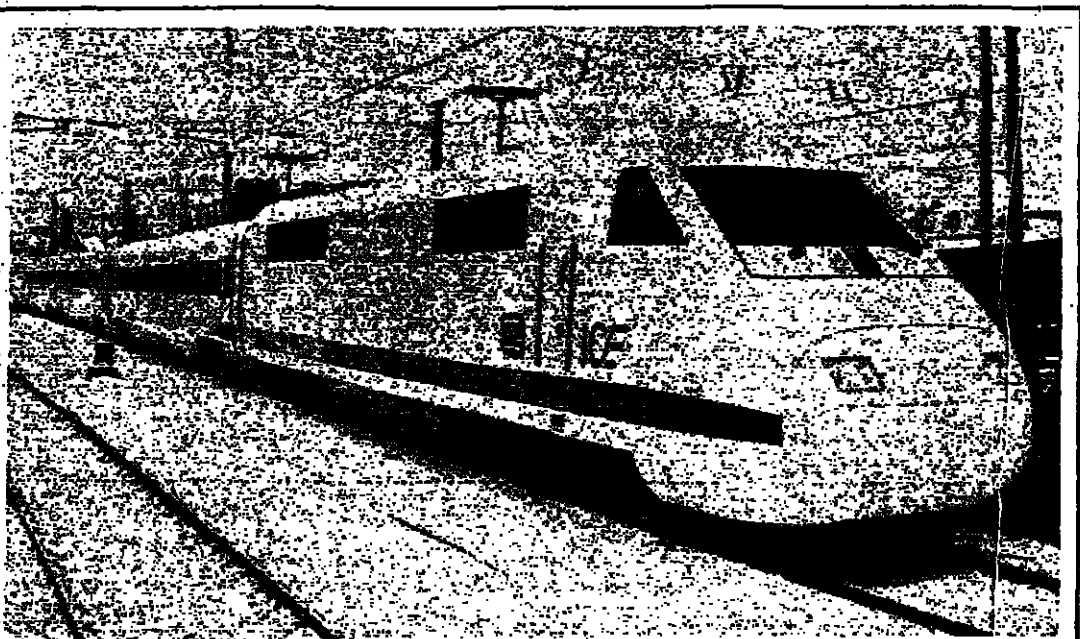
Gen. Haig, who according to some press reports is considering becoming a presidential candidate for the Republican Party, said sat-

elite technology, which brought immediate information to the White House, threatened to downgrade human judgment.

"A fact is not a fact without a satellite photo and this has distorted judgments," he said.

Asked how good satellites were in relaying signals, Donald Rumsfeld, who was President Gerald Ford's chief of staff, said: "We were told you could tell whether a picnic table in Moscow had a tablecloth on it."

Mr. Haldeman, who said the Nixon administration ran a tight administration at the White House, spoke of what he called the extreme irony.



**RECORD SPEED:** The ICE 317 kilometre per hour, between Bielefeld and Essen (photo), the new high-speed train run by the German Federal Railways, has set up a speed record of

## Lebanese press struggles to survive

By George Geha

**REUTERS**  
BEIRUT — Ramez braves sniper fire, mortar shells and armed militiamen to keep the news flowing freely between west and east Beirut.

"Even sniper fire and shelling are more tolerable than crossing at night because of gunmen roaming about," he says.

Every day he drives his van, packed with the city's daily newspapers and weekly magazines, across the "green line" battlefield dividing the city to deliver the news.

But dangers to Beirut's newspaper industry, which prides itself on having pioneered the Arab World's press, are less physical than economic after nearly 11 years of civil war.

Once a thriving bridge between the cultures of east and west, Lebanon has long enjoyed a reputation for free exchange of ideas and information. Despite the disappearance of many titles, it still boasts some 14 daily papers and a dozen weekly news magazines.

But the industry faces rapidly mounting costs and dwindling circulation, while political pressures and sporadic fighting block sales in some areas.

On Jan. 1 publishers raised the price of most dailies to five Lebanese pounds (28 U.S. cents) from three (17 cents), and of weeklies to 10 pounds (55 cents) from seven (39 cents).

Muhammad Baalbeki, chairman of the Lebanese Press Syndicate, which represents most newspaper owners, said the price increase was inevitable.

Falling advertising revenue, smaller circulation and a huge rise in the cost of production were to blame, he said.

Baalbeki said a study by the syndicate showed costs had risen 60 per cent in the first six months of last year compared with the

same period of 1984.

"We fear figures will show that costs rose a further 40 per cent during the past six months," he added.

Beirut's independent Al Nahar newspaper said this month its printing costs had risen 54 per cent in the past year.

Income from advertising fell 41 per cent and Al Nahar said it would be forced to grant minimum wage rises of 30 per cent to its staff this month to try and keep up with living costs.

The Lebanese pound has fallen to 18 to the U.S. dollar this month from five in January 1984, and the Central Bank estimates inflation was 70 per cent last year compared with 30 in 1984.

The leftist Al Safir said the "monstrous rise in costs" stemmed from a declining exchange rate, while setbacks in security had hit sales.

Baalbeki said Lebanese papers were sometimes banned in Israel's self-declared "security zone" along the border in south Lebanon, while in the early days of the civil war a number of dailies had been forced out of business by heavy fighting among several heavily-armed Lebanese militias.

Tradition dies hard, though. Hani, a Beirut University graduate, said the Christian Bible took its name from Lebanon's ancient town of Byblos.

He said the first Arabic magazine, Al Jinan, was founded in Lebanon in 1870 and Lebanese were also the first to publish independent Arabic newspapers.

Newspapers had made a major contribution to Lebanon's reputation as the capital of Arab intellectual activity before civil war erupted in 1975, he said.

But today, a young professor, despairing over Lebanon's turbulent present. "Despite our ancestors' accomplishments, deep in our souls it seems that we suffer from a chronic illiteracy," he said.

## Show features ingenious gadgets

By Solange de Santis

**REUTERS**  
LAS VEGAS — Even if you thought you were up with the latest in electronic wizardry, the recent consumer electronic show here might have come as a bit of a shock.

Among the gadgets on display were devices for turning on the lights in the bedroom from the living room, changing compact discs without getting up and turning on the bath water without touching the tap.

Other exhibits allowed you to do things you never thought of and probably never wanted to do in the first place.

In its exhibits at the Las Vegas Convention Centre and two local hotels, the show featured the most advanced products in audio and video. In recent years, home computers, telephones, satellite dish receivers, watches and calculators have joined the parade.

One of the newest products is the home control system, a central computerized box that can be programmed to regulate lights, air conditioner, TV, radio, even the coffee maker.

One version from General Electric plugs into the back of a television set and displays pictures of appliances and rooms to simplify programming. The user plugs an appliance or lamp into a small adaptor and then back into the wall. The computer controls the system through the house's wiring.

If the idea of programming a TV set sounds too hard, there was a home control system that responds to spoken commands, such

as "turn off the light", with a pleasant "as you wish."

Butler in a box is the brainchild of professional magician and computer buff Gus Searcy who plans to begin production this month and sell the product for \$1,195.

The Butler can be programmed to operate lights and appliances automatically and Searcy said it is ideal for the disabled. But more than one industry analyst has noted consumer resistance to the idea of microwaves, cameras, or cars that talk back.

Consumers are showing little resistance to the compact disc player, however, and Sony is betting they will want perfect sound in their cars as well.

Since motorists will not want to fumble with discs, Sony introduced a 10-disc magazine and remote-controlled changer that can be installed in the trunk and operated from the driver's seat. A sensor allows the operator to play the discs in any order. It will sell for about \$1,000.

Just about every audio or video device today can be remote-controlled, leaving the serious buff juggling four or five little boxes. General Electric's control central, which sells for \$150, solves that problem easily, replacing up to four remote devices.

Even the bathroom is not safe from the remote-control craze. An automatic tap at the show known as the Cue-Tel uses two infrared sensors so that when a hand or cup approaches, an electronic beam is broken and the water flows instantly. The tap can also be operated manually.

## Physical activity at early age reduces female cancers

By Daniel Q. Haney

**THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**  
BOSTON, Massachusetts — Harvard researchers have concluded that women who begin athletic training during their youth establish a style of living that significantly lowers their risk of developing cancer of the breasts and reproductive organs.

The researchers said they believe their work, based on a survey of former college athletes, is the first to examine links between physical activity and the risk of cancer in women.

The study found that less active women had about 2.5 times as much cancer of the uterus, ovary, cervix and vagina as the former college athletes and nearly twice as much cancer of the breast.

These tumours account for more than 40 per cent of all female cancers.

Just why the college athletes go on to have less cancer is not clear. However, the researchers believe that it has something to do with estrogen secretions, which are thought to play a role in the development of female cancers.

The athletic women were leaner than the non-athletes, and lean women make less estrogen — and a less potent form of estrogen — than do plump women.

"There may be a lower risk of cancer, because these athletes may have lower levels of estrogen," said Dr. Rose E. Frisch, who directed the study.

Whatever the reason, the researchers wrote, "we conclude that long-term athletic training establishes a lifestyle that somehow lowers the risk of breast cancer and cancers of the reproductive system."

The research, published in the December issue of the British Journal of Cancer, was based on a study of 5,398 women who graduated from 10 U.S. colleges between 1925 and 1981.

Frisch, a researcher at Har-

vard's School of Public Health Centre for Population Studies, said the apparent benefits of physical fitness probably begin early in life. She noted that 82 per cent of the college athletes were on teams in high school or earlier.

Most of the women continued to work out through life. At the time of the survey, three-quarters of the former athletes exercised regularly, compared with half of the non-athletes.

The results suggest that women have to start exercising early in life to obtain the apparent cancer protection.

The college athletes competed in such team sports as basketball, crew, field hockey, softball and tennis.

"The important point is that it's something that young people can participate in," said Frisch. "It's moderately intense, regular exercise. It isn't on the level of marathon running."

The effects of body composition and exercise on estrogen secretions have been the subject of considerable study over the last decade.

An earlier study of Harvard women runners and swimmers showed that young athletes go through sexual maturity at a later age. Every year of athletic training delays menarche — the first menstrual period — by five months.

In the latest study, the athletes had menarche a few months later and menopause a few months earlier than the non-athletes.

The variation in cancer rates could be attributed to differences in the women's family histories of cancer or their fertility. These factors were similar for both groups.

The research was based on questionnaires distributed to graduates of Barnard, Bryn Mawr, Mount Holyoke, Radcliffe, Smith, Springfield, Vassar and Wellesley colleges and the universities of southern California and Wisconsin.

## Singapore steps up Cupid programme for lonely scholars

By Lai Kwok Kin

**REUTERS**  
SINGAPORE — Only ten graduate couples have so far tied the knot as a result of the Singapore government's controversial efforts to play Cupid for the island state's intellectual elite.

After two years that is all there is to show for the 500,000 Singapore dollars (\$240,000) spent on bringing bright couples together for candlelit dinners, "Love Boat" cruises, trips to Malaysia's plush club mediterranean resort and holidays in Europe, the United States and Australia.

These romantic encounters were arranged by the Social Development Unit (SDU), a matchmaking body set up in January 1984 after Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew voiced concern that many university graduates were not marrying and having children.

Lee gave a warning that the pool of talent in Singapore's 2.6 million population could dwindle if graduates persisted in pursuing their careers at the expense of marriage, leaving child-bearing to the uneducated.

Despite the meagre success rate of "Operation Cupid," and sharp criticism from government and opposition politicians, graduates and non-graduates alike, officials said they planned to continue and expand their efforts to encourage romance to blossom among Singapore's elite.

SDU officials said the Cupid campaign was now widely accepted by Singapore graduates, more than 9,000 of whom have registered with the unit for help in finding a partner.

Thousands more lonely hearts are expected to sign up when the SDU opens its doors to singles with pre-university education this month, they said.

A similar campaign to bring together 150,000 singles with only secondary education will also be launched soon, this time guided by the People's Association, a community-oriented movement under the prime minister's office.

But the SDU officials said less money will be spent on these latter groups and they will not be able to mingle with graduates at the social activities.

"Our priority is with graduates, especially the women," SDU Director Dr. Eileen Aw told Reuters. "If we can just marry off the older girls and prevent the younger ones from falling into a no-marriage trap, we would have achieved our objectives."

Graduate women, especially

those aged over 30, find few takers, she said. They are the victims of Asian values that still spur men to go for younger wives with lower education.

Figures show that a third of Singapore's female graduate shun marriage — three times more than the proportion of single women with no schooling.

Government leaders blame the growing trend among women to pursue university education, their quest to follow independent careers and the disappearance of the matchmaking tradition.

Premier Lee said that, if left unchecked, the "alarming trend" in which uneducated women produce up to four times as many children as graduates could spell disaster for a country with no natural resources except human talent.

So the state plays matchmaker, especially to female teachers who seldom meet eligible men because their profession is dominated by women, said Aw, a medical doctor and mother of two teenagers.

Besides the overseas trips and candlelit dinners, she said, SDU also arranges tennis and computer courses for graduates, weekly disco sessions and personal grooming courses.

Aw said more women than men flock to these activities — an expected but embarrassing situation in which scores of females are seen to be "competing" for a limited number of males.

The latest event, the most lavish to date, was the "pink passionata" Christmas dinner and dance at a plush hotel, attended by 800 single graduates, mostly civil servants.

Watched by eagle-eyed government marriage counselors, the participants, all dressed in pink, paid (\$14 each to dine, dance and with luck, find a suitable partner.

Other more serious spouse-seekers have turned to the SDU's computerised match-making service, which has received nearly 1,000 applications since it started a year ago.

The computer matched two couples who eventually married, and a third was due to follow suit this month.

But at what amounts to (\$24,000) for each of the 10 marriages to date, critics say the programme is a dismal flop.

"If a cow doesn't want to drink water, it is not possible to press its head down," government politician Jek Yuen Thong told parliament recently. "It is more complicated still if the cow doesn't want to mate."



# Roma edges closer to Juventus with 2-1 win

**ROME (R) — Striker Roberto Pruzzo converted a controversial last minute penalty as second-placed Roma beat Bari 2-1 Sunday to close the gap on Italian Soccer League leaders Juventus.**

Bari, second from bottom of the table, looked to have done enough to earn a point when Giovanni Loseto fouled Pruzzo in the penalty area with only seconds remaining.

Pruzzo picked himself up and slotted home the spot kick to clinch Roma's win which took their points tally to 24 from 18 games — five behind Juventus who drew 1-1 at Pisa.

Bari had gone ahead through Adriano Piracini in the 11th minute before Pruzzo hit the equaliser nine minutes later.

Pisa, who scored a surprise win over Napoli last week, went ahead when Dutchman Willem Kieft

converted a first half penalty.

But gifted Frenchman Michel Platini levelled from the penalty spot soon afterwards to join team-mate Aldo Serena and Inter Milan's West German international skipper Karl-Heinz Rummenigge as leading first division goal scorers with nine apiece.

While third-placed Napoli were held 0-0 by Atalanta, financially-troubled AC Milan remained in the hunt with a 1-0 home win over Fiorentina — Pietro Paolo Viridis scoring with a second half penalty after Carlo Pascucci floored England striker Mark Hateley.

Torino moved up one place to fifth behind Milan after re-

covering from being a goal down to beat Lecce 3-1.

Austrian Walter Schachner put Torino on level terms one minute into the second half before Giancarlo Corradini and Brazilian Junior sealed victory.

Sampdoria striker Roberto Mancini, another slow starter this season, signalled his recovery with a goal in each half against struggling Udinese after Scotland's Graeme Souness hit the opener after only 15 minutes.

Paolo Benedetti scored the most spectacular goal of the day as Avellino beat Internazionale 1-0. His overhead shot gave visiting goalkeeper Walter Zenga no chance as it flashed into the top corner of the net.

It was Inter's second successive defeat following their 3-1 drubbing at Atalanta last week.

## AC Milan staves off financial collapse

MILAN, Italy (R) — The directors of AC Milan Saturday night reached an agreement with ex-president Giuseppe Farina which should save the club from financial collapse.

Acting president Rosario Lo Verde told journalists that under the deal reached Saturday, which is yet to be finalised, Farina's majority stake in the club would be sold to Italian television tycoon Silvio Berlusconi.

The bulk of the \$2.4 million owed by AC Milan in back taxes remains the responsibility of Farina for the time being, Lo Verde added.

The Italian first division club must pay the taxes by Monday or face the possibility of legal action which could end with a court-ordered liquidation.

Lo Verde said the club would pay \$356,900 in taxes Monday. The rest would be paid once the deal was finalised.

A contract based on Saturday night's agreement is expected to be signed by Monday evening.

Under the contract, Farina's stake would be put in the hands of a group of the club's directors who

would then offer the shares to Berlusconi.

"It was the only way to save the club," Lo Verde was quoted as saying by the sports weekly La Gazzetta Sportiva.

The price of the shares would be based on Berlusconi's original offer of \$8.9 million. In addition, the television magnate would undertake to recapitalize the club to the tune of \$5.9 million.

Farina had been negotiating the sale of his shareholding to Berlusconi before the club's deputy chairman Gianni Nardi obtained a court order last month imposing Farina's shares on the grounds that the ex-president was heavily in debt to him.

Nardi has now undertaken to suspend the block on Farina's shares pending ratification of the deal.

Farina, who announced his resignation after boardroom differences last month, is reported by Italian newspapers to be in South Africa. He is being represented in the negotiations by his lawyer.

Meanwhile, a British press report on Saturday said Italian-based English soccer stars Mark Hateley

and Ray Wilkins may be able to leave trouble-torn AC Milan on free transfers.

The tabloid Daily Mirror quoted Hateley as saying: "The club's in danger of folding on Monday. Our captain has told all the players that we would be given free transfers."

According to the Mirror, Hateley and Wilkins also are trapped in a dilemma over England's exhibition game against Egypt Jan. 29. Milan has a domestic cup game the same day.

England's match is a warm-up before the World Cup finals in Mexico and the Mirror said that although the two players would like to play for their country, they do not want to be seen to be deserting Milan.

But on Friday, the London Standard reported contrasting comments by Hateley, quoting the tall striker as saying: "The game against Egypt is an important test for the World Cup. I will walk out (on Milan) if necessary."

A spokesman for Milan said the previous day the club would not release the two English stars for the match against Egypt.

## 16-year-old gives Rinaldi a stiff battle

WORCESTER, Massachusetts (R) — Eighth seeded Kathy Rinaldi of the United States survived a surprising first-set loss to come back for a 3-6, 6-0, 7-5 victory over unseeded Canadian Helen Kelesi Saturday to reach the semifinals of the \$250,000 Women's Classic tennis tournament.

American Martina Navratilova, the top seed, beat compatriot Bonnie Gadusek 6-1, 6-0 to reach

the semifinals along with third-seeded American Pam Shriver, who beat Czechoslovak Helena Sukova 6-4, 6-3.

Claudia Kohde-Kilsch, the number-four seed from West Germany, reached the semis with a 6-2, 6-1 defeat of Britain's Jo Durie.

Although Rinaldi beat Kelesi, she had to break the 16-year-old's serve in the 12th game of the final

set to squeeze out her victory.

"I knew it was going to be a hard match, because she's a tough competitor and she's beaten some good players," Rinaldi said.

"I was confident through the third set," Kelesi said. "Losing didn't enter into my head, but winning didn't either. In the last game I felt the pressure and realised I had to win it and got tense."

West German Claudia Kohde-Kilsch defeated the only other non-seed remaining, Britain's Durie, in 63 minutes in one of the best matches she's ever played.

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### U.S. sprinter sets 440 record

JOHNSON CITY, Tennessee (R) — Olympic medalist Antonio McKay of the United States set a world indoor record in the 440-yard dash Saturday night with a mark of 45.45 seconds at the Johnson City Invitational Athletics meeting. The old record of 46.40 was set by compatriot Sunder Nix in 1984. McKay, a bronze medalist in the 1984 Games, said his goal was "to become the greatest quarter-mile ever. I'm going to try and break the world outdoor record." Walker McCoy, who has run more sub 46-second quarter-miles than anyone else with 119, was second in 46.67 seconds. Willie Smith, an Olympic gold medalist in the relay in 1984, was third in 46.84 seconds.

### Hang-glider pilot electrocuted

MELBOURNE (R) — An American hang-glider pilot was electrocuted Sunday as he tried to untangle a friend from power lines during the Australian National Championships, organisers said. The man and his friend, U.S. national hang-gliding champion Rick Rawlings, were competing on the final day of the championships at Mount Buffalo in Victoria State. Rawlings became caught in power lines as he attempted to land. His friend put down safely nearby, reached up to grab the glider and was electrocuted. Competition organiser Craig Worth said the man died instantly. Worth asked that he not be identified until his relatives had been notified. Rawlings freed himself from his harness and dropped to the ground unhurt.

## Australia remains on top in WSC test play

PERTH (R) — Australia retained their position at the top of the one-day World Series Cup cricket table with a four-wicket win over New Zealand in an action-charged game in Perth Sunday.

The Australians, faced with the relatively simple task of scoring 160 in 50 overs, had many anxious moments before sealing victory with 4.5 overs to spare.

Captain Allan Border again proved the steady force in the home side's innings, winning the Man-of-the-Match award for a fine 58, while Wayne Phillips bludgeoned Australia home with a fearsome 28 not out from just 14 balls.

The wicketkeeper hit the first ball he faced for four over mid-wicket and then struck successive balls from Ewen Chatfield for a four and a six in the next over to take the pressure off his side.

Phillips, who has been out of form with the bat recently, sealed victory with a disdainful six over mid-on off paceman Richard Hadlee.

Australia lead the table with seven points from five games, followed by India with four from four and New Zealand with three from five.

After David Boon fell to Hadlee in the fourth over, Border started with a series of lusty swings but soon realised sloggish was a dangerous practice on a testing wicket.

He had useful stands with Geoff Marsh and Stephen Waugh, who played beautifully for 23, before being dismissed in unfortunate circumstances with 29 still needed.

Greg Matthews played a ball towards point and called Border for what was always a suicidal sin-

gle, and Border was well short of his ground when the balls were removed.

The New Zealand innings had started disastrously and four wickets were down for 36 by the 21st over before a rescue operation by Jeff Crowe and Jeremy Coney.

The two started slowly but, aided by some wayward bowling, gradually increased the scoring rate. They found debutant Glenn Trimble's bowling particularly to their liking as he served up an assortment of long-hops, full tosses and bouncers.

Coney was out for 33 off a skied catch to mid-wicket but Crowe continued to punish the bad balls before being run out for 63 by a direct hit from Matthews at deep mid-off.

Before the game Border had joined with Coney and Indian captain Kapil Dev in condemning the wicket used in Perth.

Coney and Kapil said Saturday that the wicket, which had a healthy covering of grass, helped the bowlers too much.

Only 228 runs were scored for the loss of 17 wickets in Saturday's New Zealand-India game.

Border concurred. "Having watched yesterday's game it was obvious that the wicket was not good for one-day cricket."

The wickets in Sydney and Melbourne have also been considered by many people to be unsatisfactory, but Australian Cricket Board General Manager Graham Hallish defended the state of the Perth wicket.

He said unseasonal rainfall and other difficulties such as lack of grass, new wickets and limited time to prepare them had caused the groundsman problems.

## Lendl, Becker vie for Masters

NEW YORK (AP) — Two of the hardest hitters in tennis — Wimbledon champion Boris Becker of West Germany and top-seeded Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia — fought off strong challenges Saturday to advance to the final of the \$500,000 Nabisco Masters tennis championships.

Becker outlasted Sweden's Anders Jarryd 6-3, 6-4 and Lendl, the reigning U.S. Open champion, stopped Ecuador's Andres Gomez 6-4, 7-5.

Although the 18-year-old Becker and Lendl, the world's no. 1-ranked player, were favoured in their semifinal battles, neither one had easy victories.

Lendl broke Gomez's service to begin the match. And when he held serve at love, beginning with the first of his 11 aces, it appeared he would easily crush the Ecuadorian, a last-minute replacement when fourth-seeded Jimmy Connors was forced to withdraw because of illness.

Gomez lost his serve again in the fifth game when he double-faulted at break point. Lendl then held for a 5-1 lead and a seemingly quick trip into the final.

But Gomez, a powerful left-hander with a small but vocal group of supporters cheering him on, matched Lendl stroke for stroke, power for power, slice for slice.

He broke Lendl's service at love in the eighth game when the Czech was serving for the opening set. And when he held his own serve at love, Gomez pulled to 5-4.

Lendl, however, raced out to a 40-love lead. Then, after dropping a point, he closed out the set with a service winner.

The battle had just begun. As a small band of Ecuadorians chanted "Gomez, Gomez" and rang a cowbell, the left-hander battled Lendl on even terms through the first 10 games. But, aided by Gomez's fifth double-fault of the match, Lendl finally broke service in the 11th game and served for the match.

It was the longest game of the match, a 14-point battle with both players making seemingly impossible retrievals. At 40-15, Lendl had double match point, but Gomez saved them both.

Two deuces later, Lendl reached match point for a third time. And for a third time, Gomez rose to the challenge, winning a stirring exchange when Lendl's forehand drop volley was just wide.

Lendl double-faulted, giving Gomez the advantage. Then he rifled a forehand deep into the corner that Gomez couldn't reach, bringing the game back to deuce.

His 10th ace gave Lendl his fourth match point. And this time, finally, he closed out the 1-hour, 40-minute battle when Gomez netted the service return.

"He's hitting the ball really hard," Gomez said of Lendl. "His main weapon is that his serve is so big and that puts a lot of pressure on you when you serve."

Becker, a flamboyant redhead, had the Madison Square Garden crowd chanting "Boris, Boris" as he advanced to the championship match in this, his first trip to the Masters. And he didn't disappoint his fans, many of whom cheered him on in German.

"You've got him in the bag. Now close the bag," came a shout in German from high up in the 18,800-seat arena. Later, the same person shouted — again in German — "Close the bag. Close the bag."

Becker did just that, but it wasn't quite that simple nor that easy. Ranked eighth in the world, Jarryd jumped out in front, breaking

the first 10 games. But, aided by Gomez's fifth double-fault of the match, Lendl finally broke service in the 11th game and served for the match.

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minute — his first of four goals — and Bordeaux capitulated following an own goal by Jean-Cristophe Thouvenel 60 seconds after halftime.

Monaco, a talented but infuriatingly erratic team, proceeded to score at will as Bordeaux surrendered their dignity.

Like Bordeaux, Nantes began the night six points adrift of Paris S-G in second place but suffered an unexpected 2-0 home defeat against lowly Marseilles.

Paris S-G's smooth path towards the championship continued with a 3-2 home win over newly-

promoted Nice to stretch their unbeaten run to 26 games.

Only 30 seconds had elapsed before Felix Lacuesta shot Monaco ahead on his home debut to begin a nightmare night for former international goalkeeper Dominique Dropsy.

The last four goals came in an 11-minute burst, through Daniel Bravo, Genghini, Philippe Auzani and Bravo again.

"It hurts badly to let in so many goals, but the hardest part will be tomorrow. I didn't think it was possible for a team like Bordeaux to yield like that on the psychological level. I'm stunned by the size of the defeat," Bordeaux team chief Aime Jacquet said.

The German "Wunderkind" moved out to a love-30 lead on a steaming cross-court forehand that Jarryd got his racket on, but couldn't control as the ball went wide.

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## Bordeaux suffers humiliating 9-0 rout

PARIS (R) — French soccer champions Bordeaux suffered a humiliating 9-0 defeat at Monaco Saturday night to leave Paris Saint-Germain with a seemingly unassailable eight-point lead in the first division.

Bordeaux, European Cup semifinalists last season when they were beaten narrowly by eventual winners Juventus, conceded a goal in the first minute of the game and fell apart after the interval as Monaco rattled in seven goals.

International midfielder Bernard Genghini put sixth-placed Monaco 2-0 in front in the 28th

minute — his first of four goals — and Bordeaux capitulated following an own goal by Jean-Cristophe Thouvenel 60 seconds after halftime.

Monaco, a talented but infuriatingly erratic team, proceeded to score at will as Bordeaux surrendered their dignity.

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## Italy's Biasion captures 1st stage of Monte Carlo Rally

MONTE CARLO (R) — Italy's Massimo Biasion won the first competitive section of the Monte Carlo Rally Sunday, but Lancia team-mate Markku Alen of Finland suffered electrical problems.

Biasion took the opening 2.6-km stage at Le Chatelard, the first of six around Aix-Les-Bains, where more than 150 cars con-

verged from the six European starting-points.

Four of Saturday's 156 starters failed to complete the 1,000 km "concentration" run to the French town, and Alen experienced numerous electrical troubles in his Lancia on his 977-km journey from Sestriere, Italy.

Alen's engine cut out, a repeat of the problem he encountered in last November's Royal Automobile Club (RAC) British rally

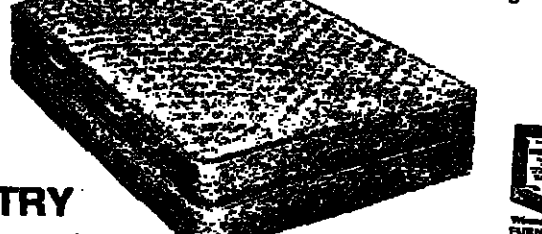
### CHANGE OF NAME

I. Amarjeet Kaur Sandhu, Indian National, Passport No. U. 141225 dt. 28-1-1981 issued at Chandigarh, henceforth will be known as Amarjeet Kaur Virk.

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(Colour)

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# World's modest but perilous economic recovery continues

LONDON — If only the world were a single country, economic policymakers might have an excuse for quiet self-satisfaction today. After three years of recovery, the world economy seems set for another year of steady, if unspectacular, growth.

Moreover, as last month's Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Economic Outlook noted, the present global recovery has already lasted twice as long as the post-war average cyclical upswing, with no signs of capacity constraints, inflationary pressures or shortages of raw materials or fuels. Hopeful whispers are sometimes even heard about a return to the "golden age" of non-inflationary growth which ended in the early 1970s.

Admittedly, this recovery has lacked in strength what it has made up in endurance. In fact, if the world economy were really transported back into the golden age of the 1960s, we would today be enjoying of a new recession, not celebrating a recovery at all.

Growth for the industrialised countries in the continuing recovery of 1986 is likely to be slower, at 2½ per cent, on the OECD's forecasts, than it was in 1970, the worst year of "recession" in the era of fixed exchange rates before the oil crisis.

Nonetheless, by the unexciting standards which Western politicians have set themselves — and apparently persuaded their electorates to accept — economic conditions seem satisfactory enough.

## Inflation should decline

Inflation should decline this year to 4.5 per cent — its lowest level since 1986 — according to the OECD's forecasts. Oil and commodity prices have fallen sharply, with nowhere to go but downwards. A massive redistribution of income in favour of the industrialised countries has been achieved as a result, not only from Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) but also from the producers of raw materials and simple manufactures in the Third World.

Few Western politicians, or even businessmen, may understand the precise definition of "terms of trade"; but the collapse in the Third World's raw material prices relative to the First World's prices for sophisticated equipment and financial services has been a major factor behind the sense of well-being reflected in indices throughout the industrialised world.

Meanwhile, worldwide capital investment, which in 1984 recorded its fastest annual growth rate since 1960, should continue to expand at over four per cent in 1986 — nearly four times as fast as in the 1973-79 period.

Even profits have returned, in relation to the OECD's total income, to levels last seen in the 1960s, thanks largely to the lower growth of wages, but partly also because of improving terms of trade with the Third World.

## Unemployment remains high

Unemployment, of course, remains uncomfortably high; but

even this dark cloud looks rather less ominous from a global perspective. For the OECD as a whole, the unemployment rate has now stabilised at 8½ per cent, just three percentage points above its 1974-79 level.

Those three percentage points represent some 11 million people who would today expect jobs if the economic assumptions of the mid-1970s were restored. But almost all the rise in unemployment has taken place in Europe. And the Germans, whose policies at present dominate the whole of Europe, seem to find sufficient consolation in the fable of the tortoise and the hare.

There may be little evidence that the European tortoise will ever catch up with the American hare in terms of total output or employment, as long as present policies continue. But the Germans seem to take particular pride in their slow-but-steady approach to economic growth, and with every year that passes, European societies are becoming more inured to unemployment.

Despite reductions in social benefits, less and less opprobrium attaches to living off the state, in countries where every family or group of friends is touched by unemployment in one way or other.

Taking the industrialised world as a whole, then, there seems no reason to expect a break with recent modest economic trends.

The world, however, is not a single unit. It is a set of powerful nations, with the potential to disrupt the international trading and financial systems in a variety of different ways. And in the late 1980s, the unco-ordinated financial, trading and fiscal actions of the leading industrial countries could create every bit as much havoc in the world economy as the trade unions and oil giants who dominated the economic demography of the last decade.

## Three great international imbalances need rectification

There are three great international economic imbalances — in trade, in savings and investment and in international finance — which will have to be rectified somehow in the years ahead.

All are encapsulated in a familiar figure: the U.S. current account deficit, which the OECD expects to rise to \$146 billion this year. But the common belief that these deficits are essentially America's problem is the most dangerous illusion which threatens the world economy today.

The malady affects the whole of the world economy and the trade surpluses of Japan, Germany, or Brazil, projected at \$65 billion, \$40 billion and \$12 billion respectively, are as much its symptoms as the U.S. deficit.

These figures imply that millions of the jobs created in Osaka, Düsseldorf or São Paulo are really "Made in America".

They imply that the U.S. economy is spending 3.5 per cent of Gross National Product (GNP) more than it earns, but also that Japan and Germany are exerting deflationary pressure on their own and the world's economies equivalent to 3.7 and 2.8 per cent of their GNPs.

And they mean that Japanese and other foreign investors are accumulating claims on the U.S. economy at a rate of nearly \$150 billion a year — claims which Americans will have to service by forgoing their own consumption and investment for the indefinite future.

In a single country, there might be nothing particularly worrying about such imbalances. Either they would automatically correct themselves or they would never come about in the first place.

But America, Japan, Europe and the debtor countries of the Third World do not have a single government or a common currency. This is why the threat of international crises — protectionism, Third World debt and currency mismanagement — will continue to rumble beneath the seemingly steady surface of the world economic recovery, as long as the present imbalances of trade, financial flows and fiscal policies persist.

There is no difficulty in theory in prescribing policies to avoid international disasters.

A fiscal tightening in the U.S. would be accompanied by a relaxation in Japan and Europe. Separately, but almost as importantly, Third World countries would be allowed to follow more stimulative policies, supported by flows of commercial and official funds sufficient at least to offset the huge resource transfers which are now taking place from the poor to the rich countries of the world.

These are essentially the objectives of the two initiatives launched in the past few months by Mr. James Baker, the U.S. treasury secretary.

So far, however, both their presentation by America and their reception by the rest of the world have been half-hearted.

On debt, the problems arise mainly from ideology and institutional caution. It is impossible politically to diminish the role of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in the design of Third World adjustment programmes.

But it will also be difficult to push the IMF away from the innate deflationary bias toward which its programmes have always been built. This could lead to serious financial disruptions in the years ahead as debtors seek to break free from the IMF's restraints.

Like the debt crisis in general, the fate of the Baker debt plan will depend not so much on the IMF or the debtors' actions, as on the success of economic policies in the industrialised world.

It is the Group of Five's attempt to shift the balance between America and the other major economies which could hold out hope of marked improvement in world economic performance in the second half of the 1980s.

However, a reduction in the value of the dollar can only promote a limited part of the international rebalancing which is now necessary.

Even at the dollar's level today, the U.S. current account deficit will continue to grow for several years and America's foreign debt will accumulate to around \$1,000 billion by the end of the decade.

According to a recent study by Mr. Stephen Marris of the Institute for International Economics

at the University of Chicago, to restore the U.S. current account to balance, in the absence of expansionary policies in Japan and Europe.

Even then, the U.S. net external debt would have to rise to almost \$500 billion before it levelled off — and the anxieties of the foreign investors who will have to accumulate this mountain of depreciating dollar assets will continue to overshadow the world economy for years to come.

At present, neither Germany nor Japan appear to take such arguments seriously. It is up to the Americans to put their own house in order. This is the sanctimonious view from Bonn and it is shared, willy nilly, by other European governments, which are tied to Germany's policies through the European Monetary System.

The U.S. current account should be restored to balance through a tightening of U.S. fiscal policy, a decline in interest rates and a fall in the dollar, not by an "artificial" expansion of demand in the rest of the world.

## Japan may be forced to yield to U.S. pressure

In the end, Japan will probably be forced to yield to U.S. pressure to cut drastically its surplus on the current account. It could do this not only by boosting its budget deficits but also by shifting its fiscal and financial structure towards the encouragement of domestic investment and borrowing, rather than savings.

## W. Germany likely to be more stubborn

Germany's resistance to Mr. Baker's demands may prove more stubborn. The German government's confidence has been greatly reinforced in recent months by a strong acceleration of investment and consumer spending.

The OECD has described the six per cent annual growth rate of final domestic demand in the second half of 1985 as a "largely technical" response to the 2.8 per cent fall in the first half. But Bonn sees it as final confirmation of its long-standing economic faith — that the only "stimulus" required to keep the German economy powering ahead are low government borrowing, low interest rates and low inflation.

If the Germans are right, then another year or two of slow but steady growth could really be in prospect for the world economy. But what if they are wrong?

What if demand in Germany fails to accelerate from 1½ per cent in 1985 to three per cent this year, as predicted by the OECD model?

Growth in the rest of Europe will then continue to be restrained by its desire to keep abreast of the Deutsche mark. Either the U.S. current account will fail to narrow, or a reduction will have to be achieved by collapse in the dollar to the DML 6 level suggested by Mr. Marris.

This in turn could precipitate a new recession in Europe's export-dependent economies, send the Third World into a tailspin and possibly usher in a new protectionist era.

— Financial Times feature.

# G-5 talks end; no sign of decision on dollar or world debt

LONDON (AP) — Treasury chiefs and central bankers from the big five industrialised democracies ended weekend talks on Sunday with no indication of whether they were taking action on the U.S. dollar or to alleviate the Third World debt crisis.

U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker and U.S. Federal Reserve Board Chairman Paul Volcker were the first to leave the meeting at No. 11 Downing St., the official residence of Britain's Treasury chief, Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson.

Mr. Baker and Mr. Volcker would not say anything to reporters gathered outside as they left for a flight back to Washington.

The financial representatives of West Germany, France and Japan stayed for a lunch hosted by Mr. Lawson.

A spokesman for the U.S. embassy said the group of five nations, known as G-5, was expected to issue a brief communique later confirming their meeting. But no details of what they discussed were likely to be revealed.

The ministers began their meeting Saturday night over dinner at the chancellor's residence. The agenda was not revealed but it was widely believed they discussed the Third World debt as well as reviewing a decision they made last September to drive down the value of the U.S. dollar.

The embassy spokesman also said the finance chiefs would discuss a proposal Mr. Baker made in October calling for more lending to the Third World to help poor countries pay off their massive debts.

There had been widespread speculation that the officials might also agree to lower interest rates worldwide. West German, Japanese and French officials had said earlier that interest rates would be discussed. The U.S. embassy spokesman said the group of five could agree to bring interest rates down in 1986.

Such a move would help speed up global economic growth and provide much needed relief for hard-pressed debtor nations.

But officials close to the talks said on Saturday that agreement on a coordinated interest rate cut was said to be impractical.

The issue is a delicate one for the government's dealings with world money markets, where the possibility of a concerted interest rate move — first cited by West German Economics Minister Martin Bangemann last week — undermined the value of the dollar and boosted gold and bond prices.

Financial analysts contacted by Reuters said the communique, expressing a determination not to allow progress since last September to be reversed, was a strong signal to currency traders not to risk buying too many dollars when the foreign exchanges reopened on Monday in Asia.

## Danish veto threatens EC reforms

BRUSSELS (R) — European Community (EC) preparations for a special ceremony to sign a revamped EC treaty this week have been thrown into disarray by a possible Danish veto of the reforms, EC diplomats said last week.

They said Danish blocking of reforms, which include a separate new treaty for foreign policy coordination, could undermine Denmark's position in the EC and threaten its continued membership.

The modest treaty changes, aimed at improving the cumbersome operations of the group which was joined by Spain and Portugal on Jan. 1, were agreed after tough and lengthy negotiations at last month's EC summit in Luxembourg.

The changes, due to be signed by EC foreign ministers in Luxembourg on Jan. 27, include curbs on national veto rights believed by

together on Sept. 22 at New York's Plaza Hotel, when they agreed to drive the dollar down on foreign exchange markets.

Last September, G-5 ministers and central bankers were faced with grossly distorted currency values which failed to reflect capital and trade flows, especially between the United States and Japan.

Their unprecedented public action, which has pushed the dollar lower, helped tame protectionist sentiment on Capitol Hill, where Congress was getting impatient about job losses in U.S. manufacturing industry blamed on imported goods.

Both Japanese Finance Minister Noboru Takeshita and his French counterpart Pierre Berégovoy said last week that this weekend's talks would focus on whether the group of five could agree to bring interest rates down in 1986.

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## YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, JAN. 20, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Until noon you have the chance to work out from under practical difficulties and to see a light ahead for gaining more of the good things that you desire.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Get advice from financial experts and business moguls so that you can improve your position in life. You can add to your income.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You know how best to gain personal aims in the morning, but don't be forceful with your friends later.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Get working on private matters and do so successfully in the morning. Think of others in the evening.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) A friend will help you to gain some cherished aim, or accept the assistance gracefully. Try not to risk your assets.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Do something in public that can add to prestige in the community in which you live. Later avoid one who is quite bizarre.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Be more willing to accept changes and take on new enterprises, and you can get ahead faster.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) An ideal morning for trying some novel way to handle your regular work and get better results.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Try to see a partner's side of a situation that is important to you both and reach an accord.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Get into the specifics of your work and get fine results, early but later you find that an associate is not working satisfactorily.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Morning is fine for getting amusements arranged properly for tonight, and then complete dull tasks ahead of you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Get your home in better shape early in the day. Tonight you may find that the pleasures you had anticipated do not work out.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Handle communication ideally in the morning, and then you can handle important home affairs.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she could be very clever at business matters so start the education along such lines, and there can be much success in this lifetime. Later there may be a desire to get into other kinds of activities, but teach to be steadfast to whatever has been started.

## THE Daily Crossword by Enrie Furtado

ACROSS

1. Hints
2. Passage
3. Alphabet run
4. Measure
5. Pool shot
6. In copse
7. Rattling sound
8. Chess
9. Clunker
10. "Can make history"
11. White
12. Poetic word
13. "podium"
14. Father's wife
15. Avery
16. Quilted cushion
17. Cup or Goblet
18. Squander
19. "Gold Bug"
20. Author
21. State
22. Stunt
23. Deception
24. Strange
25. Place, village
26. Thingy
27. Fido's doc
28. Jury group
29. Pigeon
30. "Café de Paris"
31. Actor's man
32. Little bird
33. Lark's kin
34. Sweet winner
35. "House"
36. 34 pounds
37. Stumble
38. Southwester
39. "Slump"
40. A turner
41. One-time movie star
42. Pointless
43. "I am"
44. Down
45. Clavichord
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## Peanuts

THE MEETING OF THE TOBOGGAN CLUB WILL COME TO ORDER.

AS YOU KNOW, TONIGHT IS OUR TOBOGGAN PARTY... WE NEED A VOLUNTEER TO BRING A TUNA CASSEROLE.

GOOD. WELL, SEE YOU ALL TONIGHT.

VERY FEW THINGS IN LIFE MAKE YOU FEEL MORE FOOLISH THAN SITTING ALONE ON A TOBOGGAN IN THE DESERT HOLDING A TUNA CASSEROLE!

## Mutt 'n' Jeff

YOU'RE WORKING FOR A LOAN COMPANY?

YES, I'M MANAGER OF A BRANCH OFFICE.

LOANS

LOANS

I UNDERSTAND YOU PEOPLE DON'T REQUIRE A CO-SIGNER!

## Andy Capp

SHALL WE GO TO THE "ROSE AND CROWN"?

NO, I WANT TO GO TO THE "RED LION".

WOULD YOU LIKE A LITTLE SHERRY FOR A CHANGE?

NO, I FANCY A LONG DRINK. GET ME A BEER.

FEEL LIKE A GAME OF DARTS?

NO, LET'S GO INTO THE BINGO ROOM.

NO WONDER THEY CALL THEM THE OPPOSITE SEX.

## THE BETTER HALF. By Harris

Copyright 1985 Cowles Syndicate Inc.

HARRIS

"My name used to be Stanley, but my wife changed it to Darnit Hunny!"

## JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TOORB

PULIT

RECLEY

TORETT

THE BEST WAY TO BETTER YOUR LOT IS TO DO THIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: A

Yesterday's Jumbles: DOWNY HAVOC CANDID OBLIGE

Answer: What scandal has to be—BAD TO BE GOOD



# Japan, Soviet Union agree to resume talks on peace agreement

**TOKYO (R)** — Japan and the Soviet Union said on Sunday they had resumed negotiations for a peace treaty to heal the remaining sores of World War II, including discussions of a long dispute over four Soviet-occupied islands.

The agreement was announced at the end of a four-day visit by Eduard Shevardnadze, the first Soviet foreign minister to set foot in Japan for 10 years.

Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe hailed the decision as a major break in the ice which has enveloped Soviet-Japanese relations for most of the past decade.

During the estrangement Moscow refused even to discuss handing back the four strategically-placed islands which it controls since 1945. The islands command a strait which gives Soviet ships access to the Pacific.

Mr. Abe told a press conference it was an important step forward for Mr. Shevardnadze to have discussed the islands at all, even though he showed no sign of softening the Soviet position. "It was a starting point," Mr. Abe said.

Despite strong Japanese pie-

cing, the joint communique at the end of the visit made only the vaguest indirect reference to the islands dispute.

The key passage in the communique read: "On the basis of agreement decided upon in the Japan-Soviet joint statement of Oct. 10, 1973, both ministers held negotiations concerning the conclusion of a Japan-Soviet peace treaty, including various problems which could be the content of the treaty."

"Both sides agreed to continue this negotiation in their next consultations to be held in Moscow." The 1973 statement contained references to "outstanding problems" left over from the war. The Japanese always took this to mean the islands dispute although Moscow subsequently insisted it meant nothing of the kind.

Officials said the mention of

1973 was an oblique return to the more flexible Soviet attitude of the time.

Mr. Shevardnadze backed up this notion when he told a press conference that, although the Soviet view on the islands had not changed, the matter might be taken up at projected summit talks between Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Mr. Shevardnadze, who left for North Korea on Sunday, said there had been heated divergences on the islands dispute during his talks with Mr. Abe.

Other results to emerge from Mr. Shevardnadze's visit included invitations for exchange visits by Mr. Gorbachev and Mr. Nakasone, future regular consultations at foreign minister level and a pledge to enlarge trade and economic relations.

The ministers signed an agreement on trade and payments for 1986-1990 and a treaty on avoidance of double taxation.

They also agreed on technological cooperation and cultural exchanges.

## 90 die in Guatemala air crash

**GUATEMALA CITY (R)** — A plane carrying foreign tourists to the ruins of an ancient Mayan city crashed in the jungles of northern Guatemala on Saturday killing all 90 people aboard, a government official said.

The victims included a senior European Community (EC) official, Frenchman Alexander Skacovich, and former Venezuelan Foreign Minister Aristides Calvani, who were both in Guatemala for the inauguration last Tuesday of President Vinicio Cerezo.

The twin-engine Caravelle jet of the private Guatemalan airline Aerovias was preparing to land at Santa Elena airport after a flight from the capital when it crashed into the jungle.

Guatemala's director general of civil aviation, Colonel Adolfo Corzon, told Reuters that air force helicopters had reached the scene of the crash.

Airline spokesman said there were six U.S. citizens, two Britons, two Canadians, two Dutch, a West German and a Greek aboard the flight as well as Mr. Skacovich. Mr. Calvani and a number of nationals from other Latin American countries.

Santa Elena is close to the ancient ruins of Tikal, one of the largest Mayan cities discovered and one of Guatemala's most popular tourist attractions.

Mr. Calvani, Venezuelan foreign minister from 1969 to 1974, had been on his way to visit the ruins with his wife and two daughters, who also died in the crash.

The president of the Guatemalan congress, Alfonso Cabrera, announced three days of mourning for Mr. Calvani. Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi dispatched an official mission led by Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi to bring home the remains of his predecessor.

Airline officials ruled out pilot error as the cause of the crash, saying the two pilots flying the aircraft were among the most experienced in Guatemala.

They said the aircraft crashed on its second pass over Santa Elena after passing too high the first time.

Aerovias President Eduardo Gonzalez also ruled out sabotage or mechanical error. He said members of the Guatemalan air force and the civil aeronautics board were at the scene trying to determine the cause.

## Reagan to seek approval for covert aid to Angolan rebels this week

**WASHINGTON (R)** — The Reagan administration is expected to notify Congress this week of a decision to provide anti-communist Angolan rebels with \$15 million in covert military aid, according to congressional sources.

They said the administration's request was likely to be made in closed hearings of the House of Representatives and Senate intelligence committees, forestalling a full-scale congressional battle over U.S. aid to the guerrilla group, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA).

"It appears that Ronald Reagan should be taken on his word that he prefers a covert programme" of about \$15 million of military aid for UNITA to be administered by the Central Intelligence Agency,

(CIA), said a source on the House Representatives sub-committee on Africa.

"My impression is that... the decision may already have been made," said a Senate source.

Mr. Reagan, who has made support for guerrillas fighting communist or leftist governments a cornerstone of his presidency, has said he favoured a covert programme.

The intelligence committees, which must be notified of any new administration covert aid plan, had no immediate comment.

The House of Representatives source said that Mr. Reagan could notify the committees as early as this week, and just days before UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi is due to arrive in Washington at the end of January for 10 days of intensive lobbying for support.

If not, the stage would be set for a major battle in Congress over whether to aid UNITA and, if so, whether it should be military or non-lethal, over or covert.

Jeremiah Chitunda, UNITA's foreign affairs spokesman in Washington, told Reuters that Mr. Savimbi would meet administration officials and congressional leaders and address several conservative forums.

"The main purpose of his visit is... to reiterate the seriousness of the situation in Angola and to reinforce our need for U.S. support for our struggle," Mr. Chitunda said.

He refused to speculate on how much U.S. aid would be forthcoming, but he said: "Even a very small material assistance would be enough to tip the scale in our favour."

## Church warns Marcos against cheating in elections, cautions polling officials

**MANILA (R)** — Cardinal Jaime Sin, spiritual leader of the Philippines, said on Sunday God would not forgive President Ferdinand Marcos if he won next month's election by cheating.

In a pastoral letter also published as full-page newspaper advertisements, Cardinal Sin said plots, bribes, lies and "black propaganda" against the opposition have already marked the campaign for the Feb. 7 election. But in direct appeal to "the party in power" he declared: "You hold awesome power in your hands. Please use this for the good of the people."

"If a candidate wins by cheating, he can only be forgiven by God if he renounces the office he has obtained by fraud. There will be no dividing forgiveness for this act of injustice without a previous decision to repair the damage," he said.

Cardinal Ricardo Vidal, archbishop of Cebu, in a similar though less strongly-worded pastoral letter, also warned voters against election bribery, coercion, fraud and violence which, he said, "have brought us nowhere but to greater instability and greater crisis."

Cardinal Sin's letter, his second on the election, was his most trenchant as archbishop of Manila and the Philippines' senior prelate.

A source close to the cardinal said "without doubt, without question, it is the strongest statement he has made about this. He is very seriously concerned."

Cardinal Sin has never masked his criticism of the Marcos government in matters of human rights and political and public morality. He is widely believed to

have helped heal squabbles within the opposition that secured the presidential candidacy of Corason Aquino, widow of murdered political leader Benigno Aquino.

But while his letter praised the opposition for its "determination and courage to offer an alternative to our people," Cardinal Sin declared:

"We challenge you to exert further organised effort to ensure that the whole electoral process is kept honest. Our people need to hear from you why you present a viable moral alternative to the present regime."

He urged teachers, who traditionally act as polling booth officials, to resist bribes and pressure. He also appealed to the military to remember that their allegiance "is to the flag and not to particular individuals or political groups."

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## Ugandan cabinet meets to seek ways to restore calm after clashes

**NAIROBI (R)** — A special meeting of Uganda's cabinet was studying ways to stem bloodshed following fierce clashes between government troops and National Resistance Army (NRA) guerrillas near Kampala, Radio Uganda reported.

The radio also quoted Defence Minister God Wilson Toko as telling Kampala residents to remain calm. He said government troops were containing the situation.

Heavy gunfire erupted at several points west and southwest of Kampala on Friday, and continued again Saturday. Witnesses said two helicopters were used to fire on guerrillas at Lubigi, 10 kilometres northwest of the city.

In Kampala itself, civilians fled in panic when gunfire broke out in a crowded areas of the city. But Brigadier Toko was quoted by the radio as explaining that thieves trying to steal a vehicle had been shot by security forces.

Another explosion took place in central Kampala during a "military round-up" of some soldiers who were loitering in the city," Brig. Toko said.

The radio, monitored in Nairobi, added that the city was now "calm and normal", but Kampala residents contacted by telephone said the central area was almost deserted, and there had been a rush on local markets as people tried to stock up with food, fearing further trouble.

The fighting around Kampala followed warnings by the NRA that it would take action to control unruly soldiers in the capital if the ruling military council did not do so quickly.

A peace agreement was signed a month ago between the military council and the NRA, under which the NRA agreed to join the military council and open up the area of southwest Uganda which has been under NRA control for months, cutting transport links with neighbouring Rwanda, Burundi and eastern Zaire.

Few of the provisions in the agreement have been implemented so far. It provides for all troops to be moved out of Kampala, and for existing army and guerrilla groups to be disbanded while a new, smaller army is formed and trained.

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## Final tests show Reagan is fine after cancer surgery

**WASHINGTON (R)** — Final tests on polyps and tissue removed from President Reagan in a post-cancer surgery checkup showed no recurrence of the disease, the White House said Saturday.

"Final laboratory evaluation on the three intestinal polyps and the facial tissue removed from the president Friday has been completed and all are benign," the White House said in a statement.

Mr. Reagan was told of the test results at the Camp David retreat in Maryland where he is spending the weekend.

Mr. Reagan, who turns 75 on Feb. 6, is the oldest president in U.S. history. He underwent cancer surgery at Bethesda Medical Centre in Maryland last July 13, and his doctors said at the time they believed he had been cured.

On Friday, during a post-surgery checkup at Bethesda lasting about five hours, doctors removed three very small and "clinically benign" polyps from Mr. Reagan's colon during a colonoscopy and sent them for testing.

In another procedure, a shaving of a tiny pimple on the right side of Mr. Reagan's face was taken for examination.

The colonoscopy, which is performed with a flexible tube with a light that is inserted through the anus, was the procedure which led to discovery of a cancerous growth in Mr. Reagan's bowel last July.

Despite his age the president recovered quickly from major surgery to remove that growth, hosted a state dinner for China's President Li Xianmin only 10 days later.

Mr. Reagan earlier eliminated many doubts about his health by rebounding swiftly from major surgery after being shot in the chest during an assassination attempt in March 1981.

As he left the hospital on Friday, Mr. Reagan waved and gave the thumbs up sign, telling reporters he felt "just fine".

Doctors said earlier that if there had been any problems he would have remained in hospital at least overnight.

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## Tense Punjab census ends without violence despite fears

**NEW DELHI (R)** — A language survey in Punjab to resolve a territorial row with mostly Hindu Haryana state ended peacefully despite fears of sectarian violence, officials said Sunday.

The census finished Saturday night, one day after its Friday deadline, a Home (Interior) Ministry official told Reuters.

He said most of about 1,400 census officials had returned to New Delhi after questioning inhabitants of 54 villages in southwest Punjab on whether they spoke Hindi or Punjabi.

The language difference will determine to which state the villages near the border with Pakistan belong.

The official said several hundred armed Punjab police and paramilitary soldiers flown in from northeastern Assam state ensured there were no clashes in the key village of Kandhu Khara.

Thirty-six senior government officials were rushed to the village on Friday to replace a census team accused of being prejudiced by Punjab Chief Minister Surjit Singh Barnala.

The village is considered crucial because it will link the rest of the

disputed territory to Haryana if census officials decide its inhabitants are Hindi speaking.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency said a land claims committee set up by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi is likely to decide on the simmering issue by Wednesday, four days before deadline imposed by last year's Punjab peace accord.

The accord, signed by Mr. Gandhi and moderate Sikh leader Hardand Singh Longowal in July 1985, said Chandigarh, the joint Punjab-Haryana state capital, would be transferred solely to Sikh-dominated Punjab on Jan. 26, India's Republic Day anniversary.

Haryana laid claim to the disputed villages under a clause of the accord which said the state would be given some Hindi-speaking areas in Punjab as compensation for Chandigarh.

Both Mr. Barnala and Haryana Chief Minister Bhajan Lal, a member of Mr. Gandhi's Congress (I) Party, said Saturday night they were confident the results of the census would favour their states.

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disputed territory to Haryana if census officials decide its inhabitants are Hindi speaking.

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## Next Columbia mission could be delayed

**CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (R)** — The landing of the space shuttle Columbia in California instead of Florida has added \$2 million to the cost of the troubled mission and could delay the space agency's next launch on a Halley's Comet-watching mission, space agency officials said.

Columbia and a crew of seven touched down on Saturday in the pre-dawn darkness at Edwards Air Force Base in California after bad weather prevented a landing at the preferred site in central Florida.

The California homecoming will add six days to the preparation time for Columbia's next launch on March 6, giving ground crews just enough time to install elaborate astronomy equipment for the flight.

If any delays crop up in the already-tight work schedule, the mission would have to be postponed or even cancelled altogether, space agency officials said.

The main objective of the nine-day flight is to observe Halley's Comet.

"The plate is full. We have quite a challenge (to meet the schedule)," said Robert Sieck, director of shuttle operations at Kennedy Space Centre.

Technicians will make a final inspection of the spacecraft at its desert landing site before preparing it for a piggyback ride to Kennedy space centre atop a converted Boeing 747.

Columbia's homecoming ends the first space mission of 1986 and what one space agency official called "one of the most embarrassing chapters in the five-year history of the shuttle programme."

Columbia was 25 days late in leaving the launch pad last Sunday and two days late in returning to earth on Saturday. In between, the flight was plagued by technical troubles with an array of scientific experiments.

Critics say the string of delays has raised questions about the space agency's ability to make good on its promise of a regular timetable of once-a-month shuttle flights.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has announced plans for a record 15 shuttle flights this year, the most ambitious schedule yet for the U.S. space programme.

The shuttle Challenger stands poised for liftoff next Saturday to carry a new Hampshire schoolteacher and six other crew members on a six-day voyage.

Despite the problems with the year's first mission, NASA Associate Administrator Jesse Moore said Columbia "performed magnificently."

## 2 policemen, 12 rebels killed in Sri Lanka battle

**COLOMBO (R)** — Two policemen and at least 12 separatist guerrillas were killed in a gun-battle on Sunday in Sri Lanka, police said.

A police spokesman in the eastern district of Batticaloa told Reuters by telephone that the fighting was still going on.

He said the shooting started during a police raid on a hideout of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrilla group but no further details were immediately available.

The LTTE is the strongest of the guerrilla groups fighting to establish a separate state for minority Tamils in northern and eastern Sri Lanka.

Defence officials said the two were members of the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students guerrilla group which is believed responsible for several bombings in Colombo.

Casualty figures in the border conflict were incomplete. On Thursday, Burkina Faso reported that 41 people, including 21 civilians, had died and that seven other civilians were missing. Mali has announced no official casualty figures.

During the course of the fighting, three ceasefires were announced, but only the fourth, ANAD arranged, agreement succeeded. There have been no reports of fighting since that agreement was signed Dec. 30.

The conflict has been going on intermittently since the countries gained independence from France in 1960 and is before the International Court of Justice at The Hague. The dispute involves a stretch of frontier supposedly rich in minerals and gas.

Under the terms, the participants agreed to allow the ANAD observer force already in place to oversee the withdrawal. But no timetable or other details were announced.

Both Mali and Burkina Faso belong to the organisation, made up of French-speaking West African nations.

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## Britain, France said to have chosen rail-only channel link

**LONDON (R)** — Britain and France have decided to build a twin rail tunnel but no immediate roadway across the channel, according to reports in Britain's Sunday newspapers.

The Observer and Sunday Telegraph said British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and French President Francois Mitterrand had selected a £2.3 billion (\$3.3 billion) plan of channel tunnel Group-France Manche (CTG) for a fast-rail passenger route and shuttle trains for vehicles.

Mrs. Thatcher's office and the Ministry of Transport declined comment on the reports, saying she and Mr. Mitterrand would announce the choice at a ceremony in Lille, France, on Monday.

The Observer called the decision a defeat for Mrs. Thatcher, who had earlier expressed preference for a scheme allowing motorists to drive directly between the countries, fearing a rail tunnel could be prey to strikes by rail unions.

The CTG plan, envisaging twin tunnels running 50 kilometres between Cheriton in south-west England to Frethun, south-west of

Calais, was one of three major proposals under consideration in recent weeks.

CTG, led by former British Ambassador Sir Nicholas Henderson, has said it would examine the provision of a roadway to complement the rail tunnel at a later date.

Another competitor, Euroroute, has proposed a road bridge and tunnel and a rail tunnel, using two artificial islands in mid-channel.

Channel expressway, the third option, suggests building two rail and two road tunnels but has run into strong opposition from the French government, which believes that financial and technical support for this is not strong enough.

The Observer said these doubts helped persuade Mrs. Thatcher to accept the rail-only plan.

It said she also wished to avoid another confrontation involving continental Europe at a time of cabinet difficulties.

If the channel project goes as planned, British and French officials say, a fixed link could be completed by the early 1990s.

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## Indian police tie detainees to trees

**NEW DELHI (R)** — Police in the north Indian state of Uttar Pradesh tie prisoners to trees because there are not enough jails, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported Sunday. The news agency said police in remote rural pockets of the state, the country's most populous, have found that tree trunks can serve as makeshift tethering posts for arrested men.

"During nights, however, the prisoners' legs are tied up so that they cannot sneak away," PTI quoted a police official as saying. It said police usually try to shift prisoners to the nearest town where they can be put behind more conventional bars "to the extent possible."

Indian human rights groups have said thousands of prisoners stay behind bars for years without trial, waiting for their cases to be heard by overworked courts. The Uttar Pradesh government said in 1982 that its courts had 176,000 outstanding cases, some dating back 25 years. The supreme court said recently that 62 vacancies in high courts in the country's 22 states are yet to be filled.

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